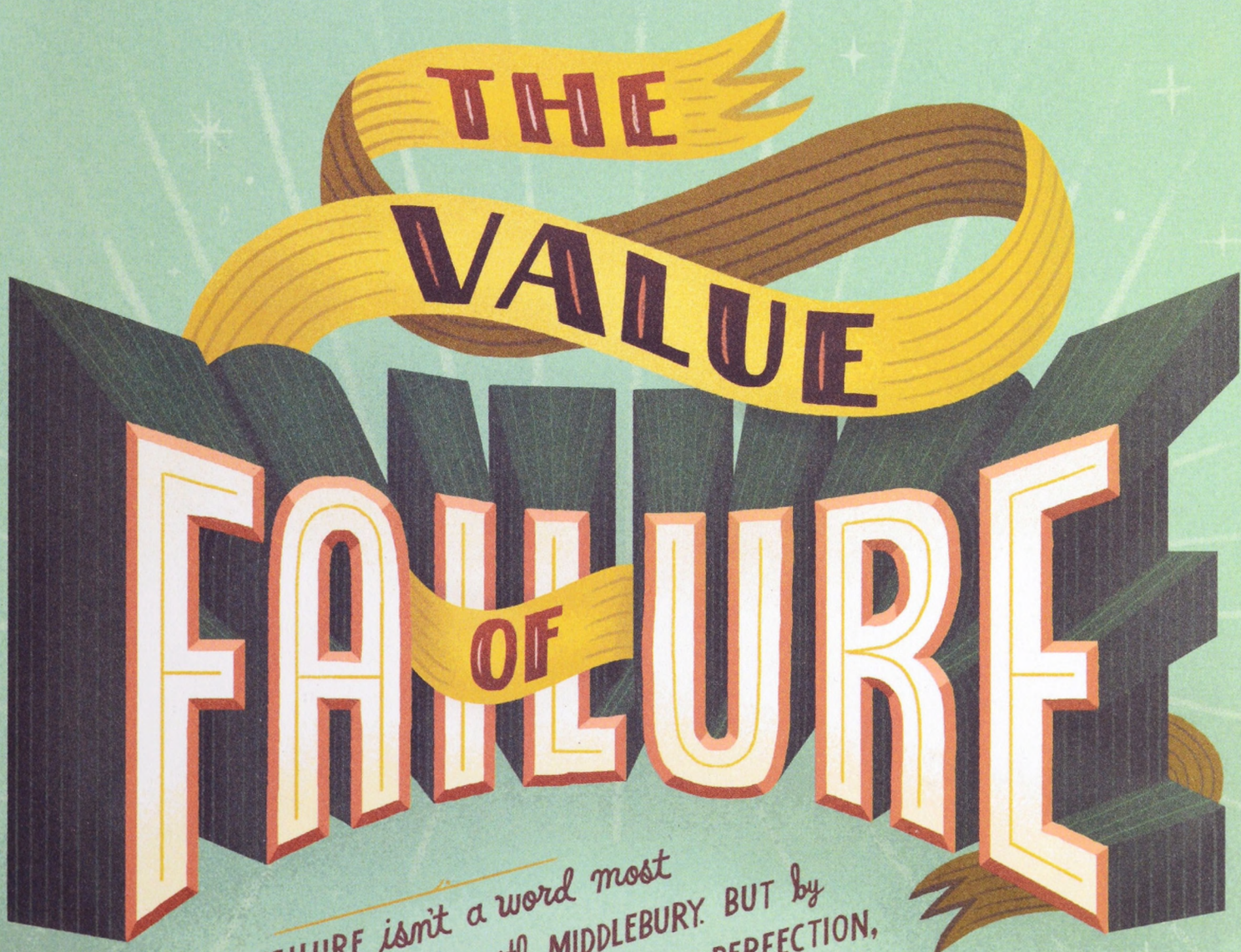
Middlebury MAGAZINE

FALL 2018

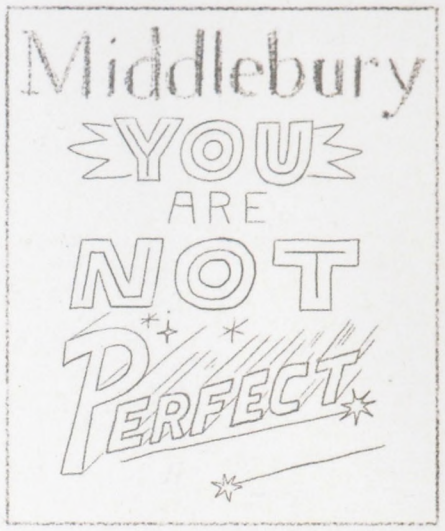


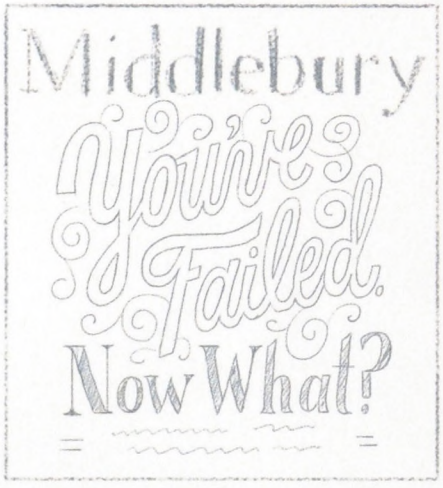
FAILURE isn't a word most people ASSOCIATE with MIDDLEBURY. BUT by clinging to the notion of PERFECTION, one RISKS missing out on LIFE'S most important LESSONS.

How we failed our way to this cover: the process unfolds inside.

Failing Our Way to a Cover

FOR THIS ISSUE'S COVER STORY, "The Value of Failure," we thought it'd be illustrative to pull back the curtain a bit and show readers how we finalized the cover art for this issue. We opted for a typographical approach and commissioned an illustrator, Mary Kate McDevitt, to do the work. What unfolds on this spread is our collective effort to produce a cover that best fits our package of essays. We tried different typographic styles, different heds (headlines), different deks (the text beneath the headline), we mixed and matched. Eventually we ended up with a cover we loved.





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"Do you think you're perfect? Think again."

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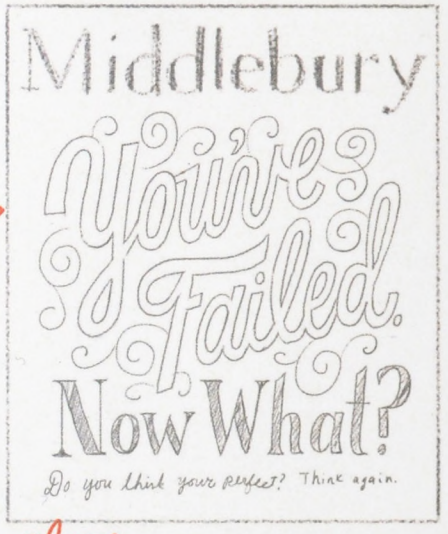

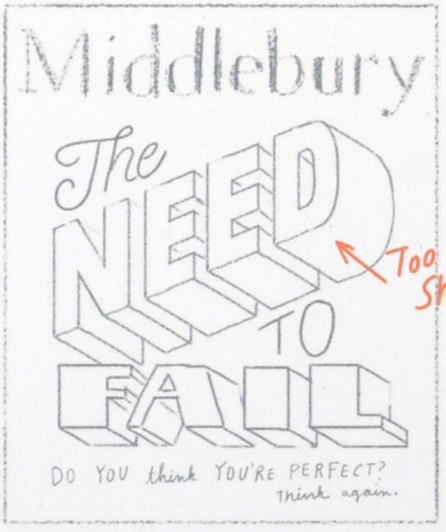

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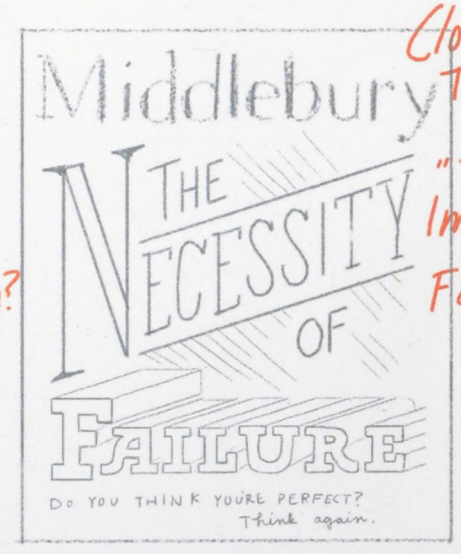

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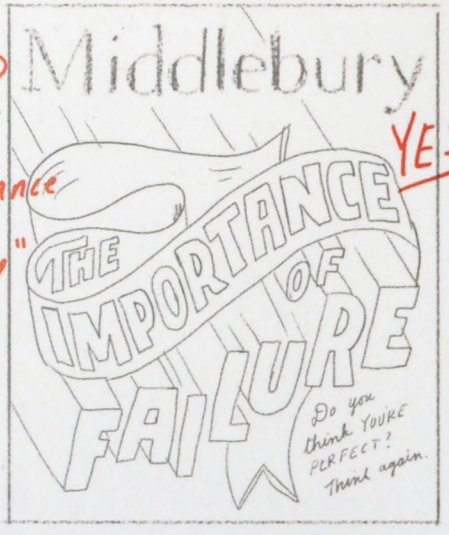

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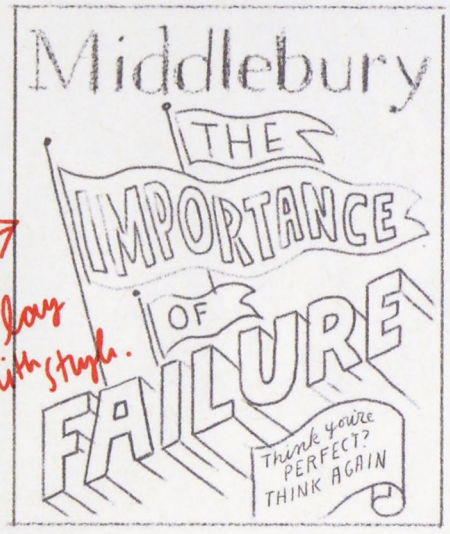
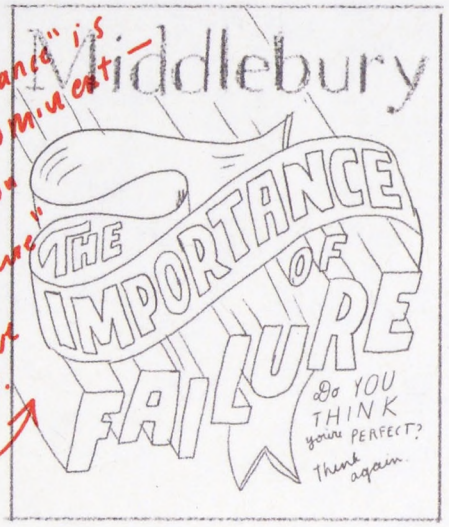


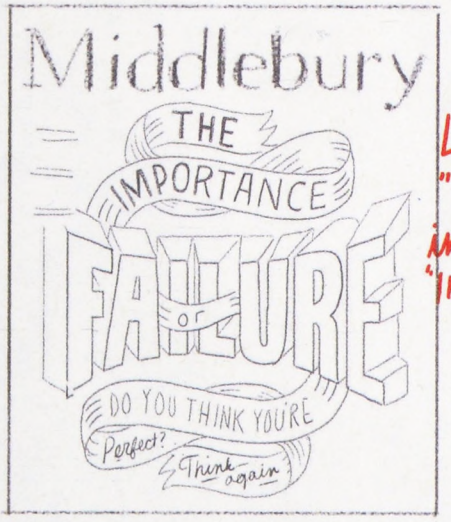
Play with style.



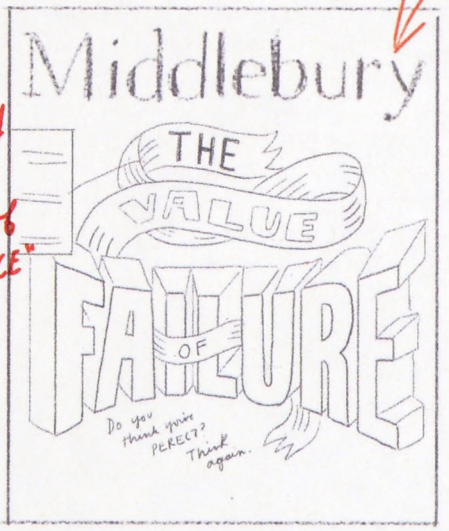
"Importance" is too prominent focus on "Failure" in a positive way.

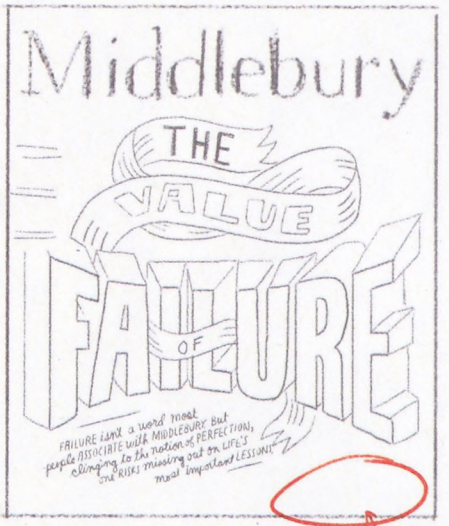
Try this dek

"Failure isn't a word most people associate with Middlebury. But clinging to the notion of perfection, one risks missing out on life's most important lessons."



Let's try "VALUE" instead of "IMPORTANCE"

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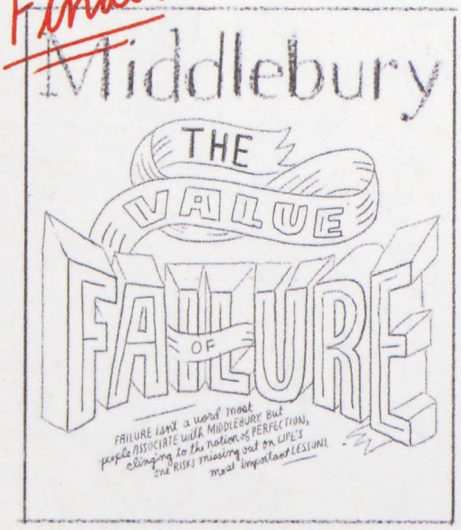
Final!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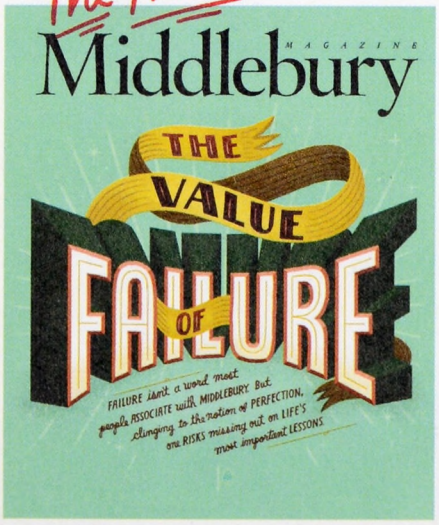
The Final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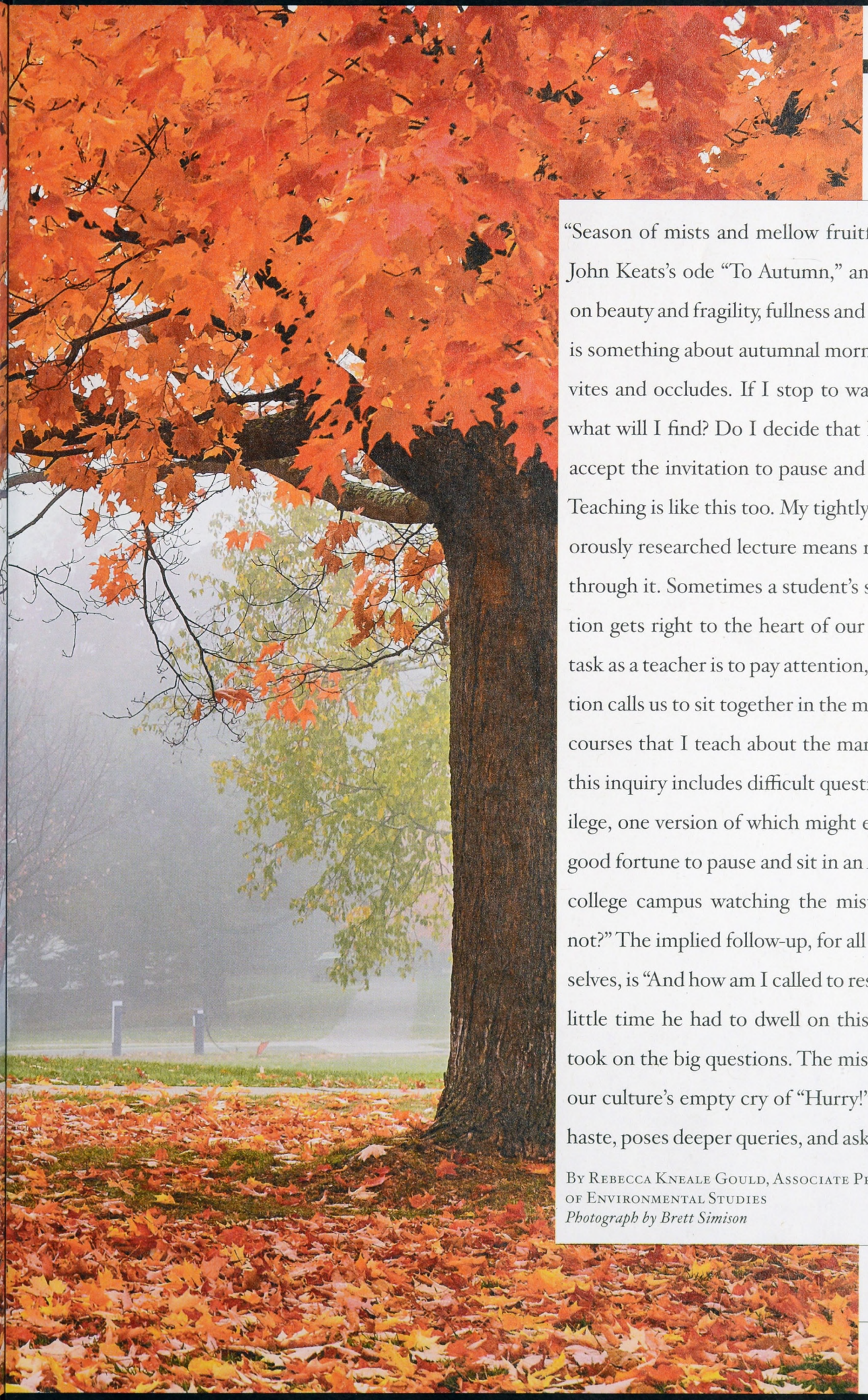
The Value of Failure

Of the essays included in this cover package, Jillian Garber's piece, "The Process," tracks closest to our efforts here. A software engineer at Sonos, Garber describes how she works best—and how she had to learn to be comfortable with time-consuming dead ends in an attempt to achieve a positive solution in her work. It's worth emphasizing *a*—and not *the*—positive solution. Just look at this cover: this solution worked for us, but it wasn't the only idea we could have selected. Tell us what you think: is this a good cover? Could it have been better? We look forward to hearing your thoughts.



SCENE

Autumnal beauty invites us to consider the deeper questions, including the difficult ones.

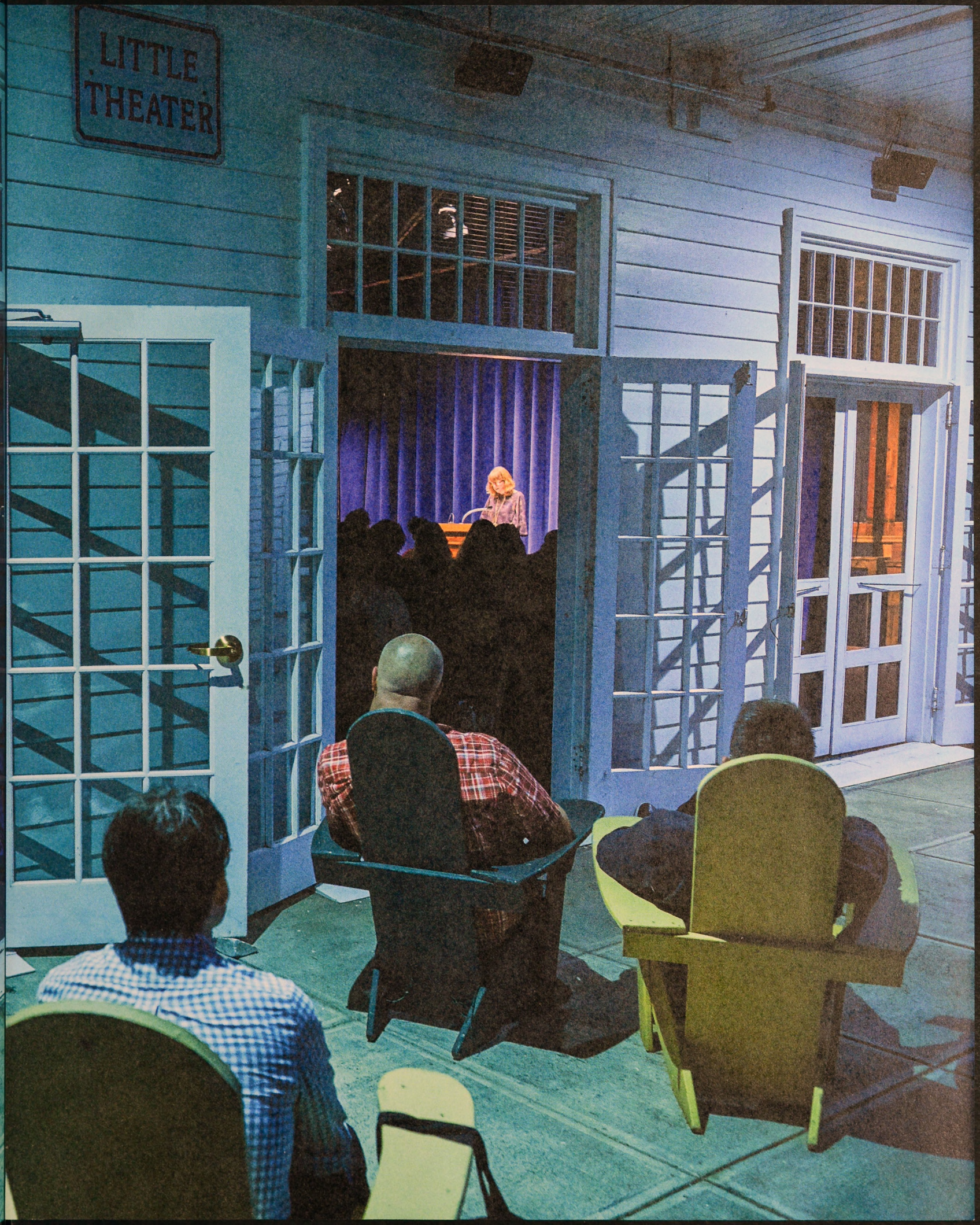
"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness . . ." So begins John Keats's ode "To Autumn," an evocative meditation on beauty and fragility, fullness and impermanence. There is something about autumnal morning mists that both invites and occludes. If I stop to watch the Ways of Mist, what will I find? Do I decide that I'm "too busy," or do I accept the invitation to pause and enter into mystery? ¶ Teaching is like this too. My tightly crafted syllabus or rigorously researched lecture means nothing if I plow right through it. Sometimes a student's seemingly simple question gets right to the heart of our collective inquiry. My task as a teacher is to pay attention, to notice when a question calls us to sit together in the mist for a time. ¶ In the courses that I teach about the many meanings of nature, this inquiry includes difficult questions of access and privilege, one version of which might even be "Who has the good fortune to pause and sit in an Adirondack chair on a college campus watching the mist rise—and who does not?" The implied follow-up, for all of us to take upon ourselves, is "And how am I called to respond?" Knowing how little time he had to dwell on this magical earth, Keats took on the big questions. The mist reminds me to resist our culture's empty cry of "Hurry!" The mist muffles my haste, poses deeper queries, and asks me to sit and listen.

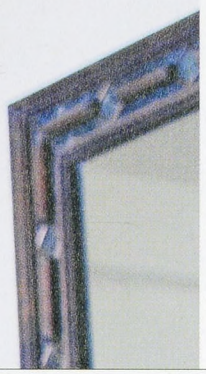
By Rebecca Kneale Gould, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies
Photograph by Brett Simison

Every summer since 1926, writers from all over have gathered in August, in Ripton, for the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. The 10 days are heady and social and humming. You're constantly among people—in the dorms, in the dining hall, in workshops, in craft classes, at the cocktail parties, at the barn dances. Into this mix, add the afternoon and evening readings in the musty, quaint Little Theater. This time—after so much happy literary chatter—is quiet magic. Some of the country's best prose writers and poets stand at the podium and read from their work—spinning stories, reciting verse, conjuring scenes from their pasts. The listening is collective: you're part of this focused hush. And the listening is private: leaps of recognition occurring within you as you hear something stirring, something resonant. It's one of the marvels of the conference: every day, several times a day, you're engaged and transported.

By Janice Obuchowski
Photograph by Brett Simison

If Bread Loaf's Little Theater is full—or if one arrives late to a Writers' Conference reading—listening occurs al fresco, with a classic Adirondack chair for seating.


LITTLE
THEATER



William Arrocha teaches courses on international development, migration, and human rights at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

Being born an immigrant, surrounded by immigrants, and traveling through life as an immigrant grants one the gift of being able to unfold multiple identities and planes of consciousness. It is like being in all seasons at once, or as the Argentinian poet and singer Facundo Cabral once declared: "Not being from here, nor from there." ¶ Being an immigrant can also be daunting. Yet the dreams of a better life overshadow the fears that may haunt us, and teaching at the Middlebury Institute as an immigrant is like finding a new home, as we are all immigrants. Sadly, in today's upside-down world, many who uphold the highest levels of power senselessly consider certain immigrants as scum. Yet, at the Middlebury Institute, we are all keepers of one of the countless lighthouses that throughout the world guide humanity in its struggle for human dignity, regardless of one's citizenship or immigration status.

By William Arrocha
Photograph by Elëna Zhukova

See more of what we're talking about

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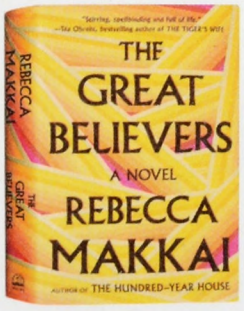

With The Great Believers, Rebecca Makkai, MA English '04, has delivered yet another novel to be devoured by readers.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN LITTLE (ABOVE LEFT). COVER BY MARY KATE MCDEVITT AND ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNIE O'NEILL.

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The Year Begins

It was mid-morning on a Sunday, just four days after the start of classes at Middlebury, and the Davis Family Library was more populated than I had expected.

It was unseasonably warm—the mercury would creep into the upper 80s later that afternoon—and I was in search of a cool, quiet spot where I could sit in a comfortable chair for a few hours and, without distraction, focus on some work with looming (or missed!) deadlines. (For the record: wandering the stacks of periodicals on the lower level is not a distraction, but rather a digressive opportunity to further fuel the creative process.)

I found my chair on the upper level, but my attention was almost immediately drawn elsewhere. I didn't think the library would be empty at this time, but I was intrigued by the number of students who were pecking away at laptops, painting printouts with highlighters, and speaking in semi-hushed tones while checking out a display near the circulation desk that featured the College's literary journal, the *New England Review*.

I know: college students in the library on a Sunday is not a revelation. But on a day that felt like summer, at a time in the semester (and hour) that would seem to warrant greater sparsity, I was struck by the moment. As I wandered around hearing snippets of conversation and observing what folks were reading (*Premodern Japan*, *On Liberty*), a clearer picture emerged. It was not one of stressed-out students or people fulfilling an obligatory function, but rather a natural course of events, one in kind with the jam-packed activities fair on the lawn next to McCullough two days prior and the loud cheering sections at soccer and field hockey games on a sun-drenched Saturday afternoon.

On campus, the year had begun anew. For some, it was the beginning of the collegiate experience; for others, a return—and a welcomed one, from my observations.

Eventually, I made my way back to my chair and settled in. Stories demanded attention. Deadlines whispered (or shouted!) their urgent warnings. A natural course of events.

ILLUSTRATION BY XENIA LATII

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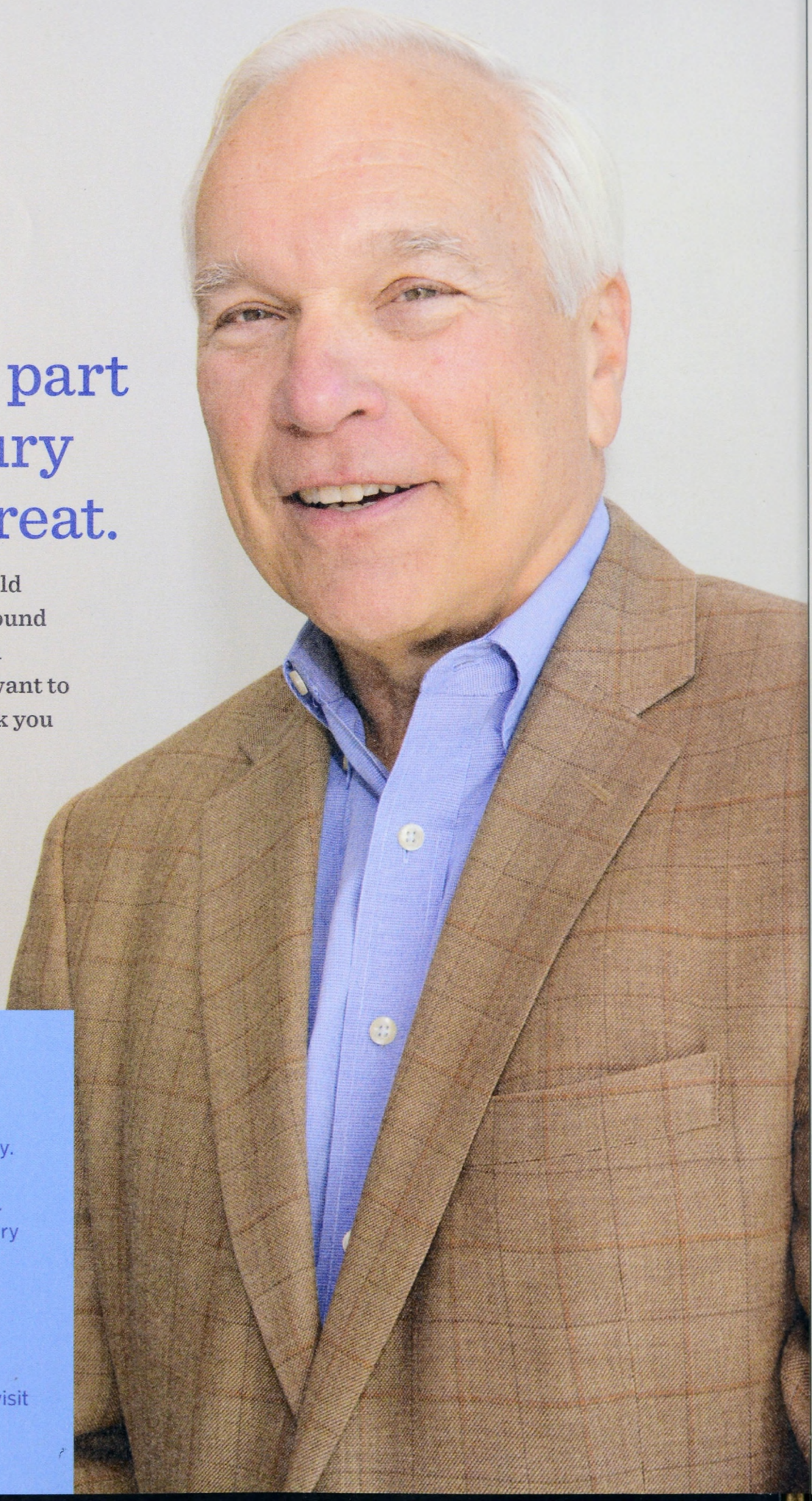

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—JACK RUDNICK '70

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An Unexpected Path

By Laurie L. Patton

There is no script. ¶ That may be exactly how one Middlebury student found himself writing one. ¶ "My majoring in film at Middlebury wasn't what my parents expected," he told me. "When I came to Middlebury, I planned to major in computer science. It's what I thought I wanted. It's what I told them I was interested in. But then I took a course on film history because it seemed interesting. I never looked back. Here I am, a senior, a film and media studies major. I've found my calling."

I believe he's right. I've seen his work—it's beautiful and inspired—and I've seen his passion for his field of study. I see how happy and rewarded he is as he satisfies the requirements of his major—all because he chose to take a chance and explore a subject away from his planned focus.

This student's story is one of dozens I've heard from current students. I've heard often about how before Middlebury, they believed their lives were on certain paths—a major, a career, a destination—and how a deviation from those paths took them into lives more surprising and more rewarding than they'd expected.

It's also a story I hear again and again from the Middlebury alumni I meet, and the lives I read about in these pages and so many others. Many of these lives bear little resemblance to the plans that existed at the start of college, or its end. A lawyer becomes an artist. An artist becomes a lawyer. An academic becomes an administrator. An apolitical person becomes an activist. A guidance counselor becomes a financial planner. A teacher becomes a novelist. A musician takes a chance to go live abroad, and a new career as a translator emerges.

What allows for this kind of flexibility, resilience, openness to opportunity? In large part, I believe, it is the kind of liberal arts education offered at Middlebury. As our understanding of the world expands, that education expands, too. With participation from our students, as well as our faculty, we continue to examine and update our liberal arts curriculum to ensure that it is best preparing our students for the world that they're living in. This includes broadening the curriculum to encourage and prompt students to diversify their interests and deepen their understanding of the world.

In preparing our students broadly, we prepare them for the unexpected paths, the twists and turns (both sharp and gentle) that define most every life. Our response to those unexpected opportunities depends on what we know about ourselves and the world around us. A Middlebury education does not make the path easy—it's preparation for the tough path ahead.

Sometimes it's a matter of choice. You choose a major after finding a course, or a professor, that delights you, and you find you keep going back for more. You choose to study abroad in another language, not your first, and in an unexpected region—Yaoundé, Cameroon, rather than Poitiers, France; or Montevideo, Uruguay, rather than Madrid, Spain.

Other times, it's a lack of choice—a class you have to take because the course you want is closed. The room, or roommate, you have to choose because your plans fell apart. The job you accept after you're turned down for the one you want.

Often, it's about the work you think and feel you are ready for, rather than the position or title or even identity that you might be taking on. When people ask me, "How did a scholar of early Indian history and culture become an educational leader?" I respond that, at every moment of decision in my career, I asked myself what kind of work I could do that would be the most service to the world. Then I knew I was authentically responding to the opportunities the world was offering, rather than simply fulfilling a role or holding a title.

I've turned down leadership roles because, even though the role might have been attractive, I knew someone else would be better for the job, and I wouldn't be authentically responding to an opportunity for service. Viewed in that light, the script and the journey both unfold in unexpected ways.

I make it a point to emphasize to all students—new and returning—how important it is to be willing to go down the unexpected path when opportunities arise—even if it leads to what one might perceive as failure.

It's important—necessary—to move toward the uncertainty, rather than demand what we expected, to follow the script that we believe was written for us—even if, in truth, that's not how the script goes.

Because there is no script.

ILLUSTRATION BY MONTSE BERNAL

Talk

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

Kevin Charles Fleming '09 ("Moriel Rothman-Zecher Has Something to Say") has written some of this magazine's finest profiles during the past decade, with subjects that include author Jeff Lindsay '75 ("This Man Has Created a Monster," summer 2011), political scientist Allison Stanger ("The Shadow Government," spring 2010), and journalist Will Dobson '95 ("The Last Days of the Dictator," summer 2012). Kevin's writing has also appeared in *Pacific Standard*, *Washingtonian*, the *Atlantic*, and *Outside*.

Illustrator and lettering artist **Mary Kate McDevitt** ("The Value of Failure") hand lettered this issue's cover—and was generous enough to allow us to reveal the entire creative process and effort on the inside front cover and page 1. Mary Kate's talent has been engaged by the likes of *Sesame Street*, Nike, *O* magazine, Penguin Books, and Target. She is also the author of three books: *Hand-Lettering Ledger*, *Illustration Workshop*, and *Every Day Is Epic*. And perhaps our favorite fact about her is that she has a cat named Peppy Mew Mew and a dog named Fritz.

Annie O'Neill ("Moriel Rothman Has Something to Say") is a photographer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A Long Island native, Annie has been documenting life's rich pageant for more than two decades, an effort that has taken her to five continents and provided assignments that range from a royal wedding in Qatar to the documentation of U.S. military veterans afflicted with posttraumatic stress disorder.

Writer **Melissa Pasanen** ("Can World-Class Wine Come from . . . Vermont?") is perhaps Vermont's most prolific food journalist. She's a regular on Vermont Public Radio's *VPR Cafe*, and her byline has been a staple of just about every publication—*Burlington Free Press*, *Seven Days*, *Vermont* magazine, *Vermont Life*—in the Green Mountain State. She's not a state secret, though. Mags and publishers with a national reach—*Saveur*, *EatingWell*, and Rodale—also dish up her delicious prose.

The Heads of State ("The Value of Failure") contributed the illustrations that accompany our 11 essays on failure. Founded by Dusty Summers and Jason Kernevich, the company counts Apple, Starbucks, the *New York Times*, and *Esquire* among its clients. Odds are, you've seen their work just about everywhere, from a *Times* magazine cover to U.S. postage stamps.

CORRESPONDENCE

Go Fish

Chris Wood '88 works to save fish, preserve habitat, and engage a new generation of conservationists

By Chris Santella '85
Photographs by Stephen Voss

THE POTOMAC RIVER, where it separates Arlington, Virginia, from Washington, D.C., is not every fly angler's idea of nirvana. There are treatment plants pumping in less-than-pure water, the occasional shopping cart to negotiate while wading, and nary a rising trout in sight.

Yet whenever he can find free time, Chris Wood '88—CEO of the nonprofit organization Trout Unlimited (TU)—can be found casting flies into the Potomac's rather murky waters. There are a number of fish here, after all, that will take a fly.

And here, in proximity to the citadels of power, Wood is strategically situated to continue his work protecting cold, clear-flowing rivers elsewhere—in the mountains, the north woods, the high desert canyons of the West—the rivers that are home to the 25 species of trout that can be found in the United States.

Fly casting in these urban environs—where the scenery isn't exactly bucolic—Wood exudes a genuine sense of positivity. It's an outlook that might seem a bit Pollyannaish when exhibited by someone else, but one that comes naturally to him—whether he's buttonholing legislators, taking donors fishing, or staking out a middle ground between fourth-generation miners and take-no-prisoner environmentalists to protect a high mountain creek.

Earlier this spring, I visited with Wood at Trout Unlimited's Arlington headquarters, and I was a bit surprised to learn that he had not grown up fishing. Though he brought a fishing rod with him to college, he hadn't used it all that much, not until he began volunteering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program his senior year. The parents of his "little brother" suggested that fly-fishing might be a good activity for their son and Wood to undertake, so the two would hit the streams around Addison County every now and then. But "not long after we began our fly-fishing adventures, his family moved away," Wood said. "I still had the fly rod, so I began fishing on my own."

Given the number of trout streams within a short drive of campus, Wood found ample opportunity to fish. (He confessed that he did not have a perfect attendance record for his morning classes.) One morning he landed a five-pound, 23-inch rainbow trout below the Middlebury Falls of Otter Creek; for a time, his bank card pin was "0523."

After he graduated, Wood worked a couple of menial jobs back home in New Jersey, but he was restless, and near the end of the summer of

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A TALE OF TWO CHRISES

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: fishing is ultimately never really about the fish themselves; rather, it's always about the people you meet along the way and the places you see and experience. Thoreau said it best: "Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after." It's true. Took me a while to figure it out, and if you haven't yet, you will.

So it tickled my heart in a good way to see the [*Middlebury Magazine*] story about Chris Wood '88, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited, written by Chris Santella '85, one of the most decorated outdoor writers in America, who share a mutual connection as alums of Middlebury College in Vermont ("Go Fish," summer 2018).

The world can be a cynical one, even in fly fishing, where "ambassadors" and social media seemingly rule the day. When people make their own pedestals to stand on, dole out awards to themselves, and there is no shortage of those who "talk the talk" but scant few who really "walk the walk," it's sometimes difficult and frustrating to wade through it all.

Until you read something like Santella's profile of Wood, something that captures the work of two consummate professionals in one place: one who is literally doing more to make trout fishing better for future generations than anyone else in America, and the other who writes with aplomb on a level that few, if any, are able to match. Kudos to Middlebury! Nice work! Thanks to Chris Wood. And thanks to Chris Santella.

I hope that this story is widely read. I have no doubt that readers will feel the way I do—bolstered by the writing (the craft), the purpose, the mission, and the "why" of trout fishing and conservation. You will never, ever find two better, truer "ambassadors" for trout fishing anywhere.

—KIRK DEETER, *Excerpted from the blog post "The Middlebury Backstory," and published by Trout Unlimited.*

The writer is the vice president of Trout Media and the editor of Trout Magazine.

MORE TO THE STORY

What fun to read about Chris Wood '88 in the summer issue of the magazine ("Go Fish"). Thank you for including Chris among your stories, but I noticed his work at Middlebury was not mentioned. I feel compelled to share some of his Middlebury roots!

After graduating from Midd, Chris worked with Frank Kelley, director of residential life, part of the first cohort of RHAs (residence hall advisors) supporting and shaping the new Commons system. Those first RHAs split their time between a departmental internship and work in the residence halls. I was in-

credibly fortunate to have Chris's help while evolving the Office of Student Employment and Volunteer Services. Chris helped connect fellow football players with community needs, build the number of Community Friends "big brothers," encourage students to visit elders, and more.

When I read about Chris's "ability to tread a middle path," I thought about the profound influence that Frank had on Chris (and so many of us!). Frank was an iconic figure, just like Dean of Students Erica Wonnacott, who hired him. Frank had a special way of connecting with and believing in people. He encouraged the very best in all of us. Frank got things done, not through meetings and policies but by his presence, day and night, building relationships. I believe Chris's "everyman quality" comes from genuine connections with folks from all walks of life. His understanding of the importance of forging authentic relationships—whether on pristine rivers, through advocacy work "on the hill," or strategizing to safeguard public lands—stems, in part, from Frank's early influence. To mark their enduring respect and love for Frank, Chris and his wife, Betsy, gave their son the middle name Francis.

There are so many stories to share from those days. We worked very hard yet had fun, too. Chris loved to play practical jokes. Just ask former Dean Ann Hanson about the phone call she received one morning about her son's behavior from the "school principal"!

One afternoon Chris and I were in the office together on a beautiful sunny day. Chris was struggling with ideas about his future: "Tiffany, I just can't see myself sitting behind a desk every day. What am I going to do?!" How wonderful that Chris found a way to combine his intellect, heart, and passion into effecting positive change, building alliances, and safeguarding our lands and waters.

While work brought us together, Chris quickly became an extended part of our family. Chris and my husband, (Charlie) Bill Sargent, retired purchaser for dining services, bonded through fishing. Bill was happy to share his "sweet spots," feeding Chris's passion. Our kids, Hallie and Asa, welcomed Chris, and later enjoyed his semiannual ice fishing visits and stories. We may have mentored Chris in his early years, but the mentee became mentor over time. Chris gave our son, Asa, his first fly rod when Asa was recovering from Lyme meningitis the summer before middle school. As a college student, Asa interned with Trout Unlimited, then worked four years as a fishing guide in Alaska, and now serves as a Vermont state game warden.

Hobbies. Passion. Work. How fortunate to "do what one loves and love what one does."

—Tiffany Nourse Sargent '79, *Ripton, Vermont*

The writer is the director of the Center for Community Engagement at Middlebury.

FROM ONE ANGLER TO ANOTHER

Great story in @MiddleburyMag on Trout Unlimited CEO Chris Wood. Thanks for the work that you and your legions of angler/environmentalists do every day, Chris!

—Jake Kritzer '95 *(@jakeofish), Commenting on Twitter*

NEVER TOO LATE

Abby Manzella's essay ("Vermont Life," summer 2018) about the Ripton Country store is a truly wonderful story about a truly wonderful place. I lament that in my many visits to Middlebury, I have yet to visit the Ripton Country Store—but I sure wish I had! Maybe when I return to Vermont for my 70th Reunion I will visit this legendary place.

—Dixon Hemphill '49, *Commenting on middmag.com*

DAYS GONE BY

Ohhhh, my heart. I have such fond memories of many stops at the Ripton Country Store during my last summer at Bread Loaf.

—Tina Roese, *Commenting on Facebook*

A HERO, INDEED

I loved reading Laurie Patton's tribute to Corey Reich '08 ("What Makes a Hero") in the summer issue. Corey inspired me as a friend at Middlebury, and he continues to inspire me as a human today.

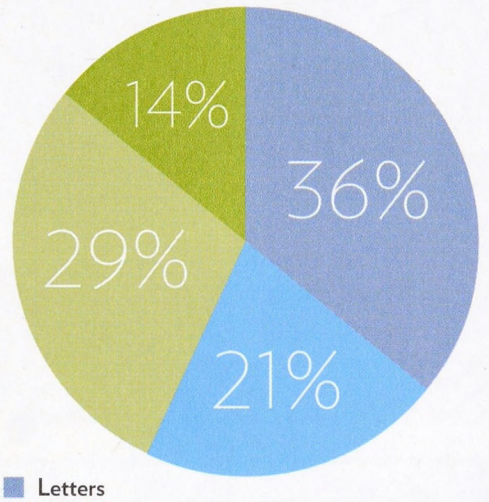
—Will McDonough '07 *(@MrMcDonough), Commenting on Twitter*

CLOUDY VISION

My subscription issue of *Scientific American* arrived in the mail recently, and on page 34 I was examining a diagram of the CERN Large

Mail Bag Lots of goodies in our quarterly mail bag. Folks had some wonderful things to say about Chris Wood and his work with Trout Unlimited (and also about his time at Midd); Avery Shawler's near-death experience captured the attention of a national magazine; and readers continue to engage in critical analysis and good-natured debate.

HOW YOU CHOOSE TO TALK



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LETTER THAT REFERENCED THE CERN LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

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FACEBOOK "LIKES" FOR ABBY MANZELLA'S ESSAY ABOUT THE RIPTON COUNTRY STORE

1

STORY FROM THE SUMMER ISSUE REPUBLISHED BY *OUTSIDE* MAGAZINE

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INDEPENDENT LIVING * RESIDENTIAL CARE * MEMORY CARE

Hadron Collider. Wait, hold on—this is the winter 2018 issue of *Middlebury Magazine*, and on page 34, I am gazing, glassy-eyed, at the College's "Our New Strategic Framework." I expect to be mystified by anything having to do with the hadron collider, but not by any diagram purporting to show the College's vision of its future. To me, this looks like a combination of consultant-speak and production by committee, resulting in something lurching perilously close to gibberish. I know no more about the College's future now than I did before. If I were to lapse into cynicism, I would say the diagram is what a consultant might produce to justify an exorbitant fee. Fortunately, I am not of the cynical bent.

Let's try to rephrase and restate the diagram in words I can understand. What does the College do well, even exceedingly well? These are assets or attributes we must retain. Beautiful location, small class size, outstanding teaching, stimulating dialogue between professor and student, top-notch scientific assets—these come to mind. Conversely, what are we (the College) weak in? And, if we are weak, is it weakness on an absolute basis, or only relative to our higher-ed competitors? Try as we might, we cannot provide superior instruction in all disciplines to all students.

Let's strive for clarity—"place-based experiential learning"? I only know of learning. However, I guess I see that visiting Nepal, reading *Bleak House*, and constructing one's own hadron collider constitute different types of learning. "Making intentional choices in pursuit of our vision"? I should certainly hope so—let's not plan on making unintentional choices. "Committing time and space to facilitate our collective goals"? It would be hard to achieve our goals without them.

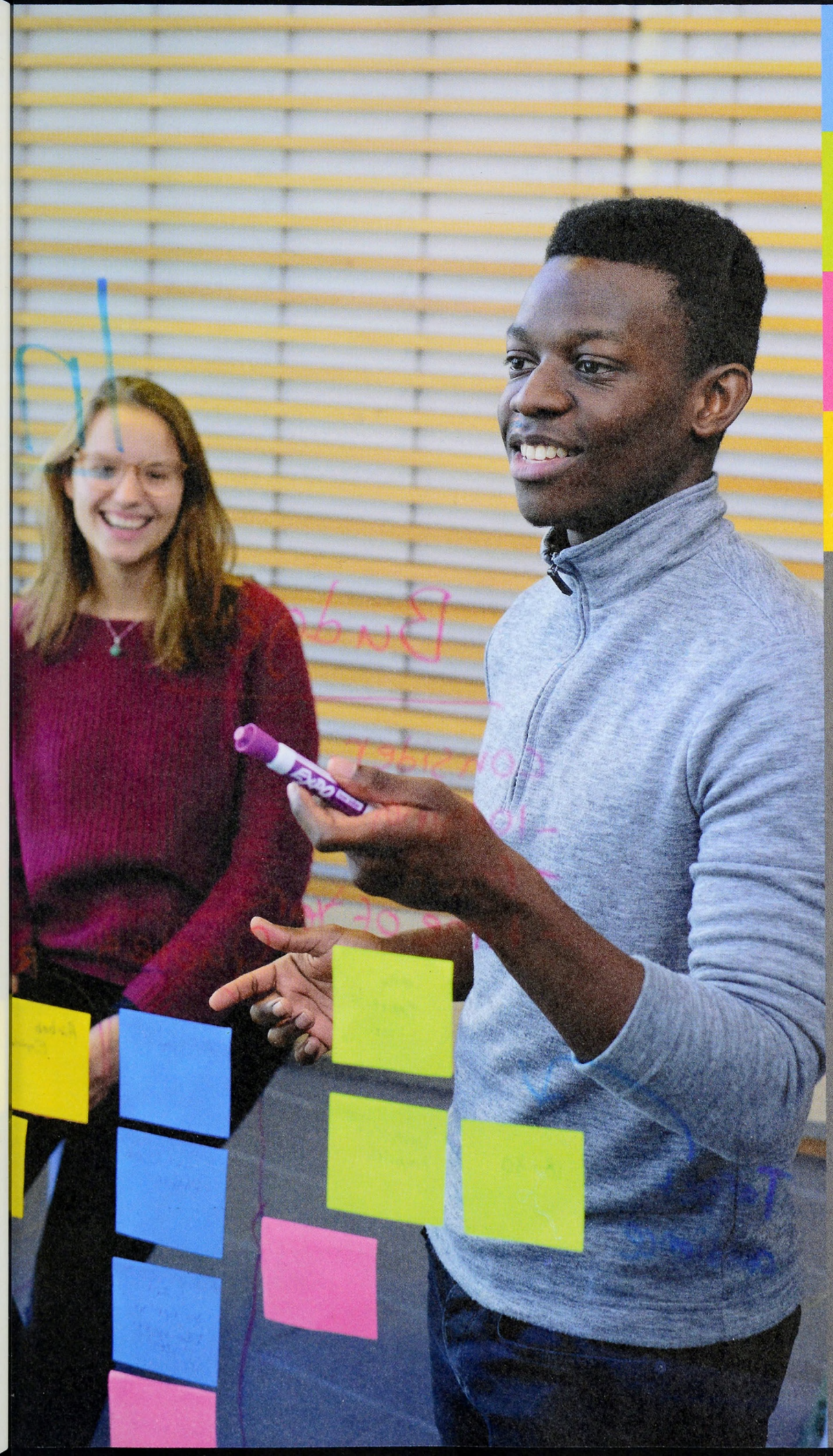
Pulling back a little, let's hope that we (the College) are operating from a position of relative strength. Excessive self-analysis can be unduly negative, so let's cut ourselves some intellectual slack. Also, I don't see the words "elite" or "intellectual" anywhere. Although the words carry pejorative connotations for some, let's not be afraid to use them in describing ourselves. If we are not striving to be an elite college, strong in intellectual pursuits, what are we striving for?

Finally, although this question leads to another layer of research and additional diagrams, is the small, liberal arts college business and economic model a viable one?

—Peter Colton '74, *Burnsville, Minnesota*

MISSING IN ACTION

I was so fortunate to be part of the throng of alumni at this year's Reunion in June—a won-



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derful weekend in Vermont! As one of about 100 returnees for our 40th Reunion, it was easy to find classmates at many venues across campus, on the golf course, and elsewhere. How ironic, then, that in checking out the "Where's Gamaliel?" challenge in the summer issue of the magazine, I found many of the notable personalities listed—but no Class of '78 banner!

—Michael Abend '78, *Wayland, Massachusetts*

WHAT A STORY

David Wolman's story about Avery Shawler '13 ("Searching," summer 2018) is an excellently written story of a true-life and life-changing adventure. Bravo.

—SuZanne Curtis, *Commenting on middmag.com*

THE MAGAZINE GOES *OUTSIDE*

A few weeks after the summer magazine hit mailboxes we heard from an alum and former mag contributor, Luke Whelan '13, now wielding his editorial pen at *Outside* magazine in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dave Wolman's gripping narrative "Searching"—about Avery Shawler's near-death experience while hiking in Idaho—had captured the attention of the editorial folk in Santa Fe, and they wondered: had we ever considered an editorial partnership with another magazine, and, if we were keen to the idea, would we be amenable to *Outside* republishing Dave's story?

After confirming that we would be credited with the original and that *Outside* was republishing our work—and with the consent of all artistic parties, writers and photographers, involved—we answered with an enthusiastic "Heck, yeah!" Which is how our feature ventured *Outside* this summer.

—The Editors

MORE PRAISE FOR WRMC

I was a DJ at WRMC with a shift from 2:00 to 4:00 a.m., and it was one of the most memorable experiences I had at Middlebury ("Radio, Radio," winter 2018). Not only did I get great experience and exposure to the mechanics of running a radio station, but I met so many wonderful people, including a future governor of Vermont, Jim Douglas '72, who was the news director; my freshman-year boyfriend, Flash, who is now Jeff Lindsay, author of the *Dexter* series; and Annie Martin Wilder, who is still one of my closest friends in the world. Thanks for helping bring it all back!

—Debbie Eaton Stirling '75, *Gorham, Maine*

A NARROW PATH

I am completely in agreement with Marjorie Atkins's letter in the summer 2018 edition of *Middlebury Magazine*. The letter neatly summarizes my thoughts about the direction (leftward!) of the College and its policies and treatment of differing viewpoints.

Although I have fond memories of the College in the '70s, I don't imagine that would be the case today. It seems there is very little room for "traditional" American values, including tolerance for others' opinions and the ability to express them. The path Middlebury and other academic institutions are on has narrowed and grown dark. It would be refreshing to see an effort to welcome all viewpoints—intellectual, ethical, and political—and less of a focus on only a person's ethnic, physical and socioeconomic characteristics. It goes without mentioning that being politically correct must also be adhered to by all. I must have grown into my parents, it seems, but I think most of us have realized by now that they grew wiser as we grew older!

—Stephen Swalm '77, *Centennial, Colorado*

PART OF THE SOLUTION

The health and safety of our oceans weighs on my heart more and more—and I was moved by the story of Caleb McClennen '97 ("Wild at Heart," fall 2017) and his work with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). I, too,

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want to be part of the solution, so I helped organize a beach cleanup in September as part of Maine Coast Week through my company's global volunteer program.

—Lisa Darak-Druck, *Commenting on middmag.com*

PUZZLED AND DISAPPOINTED

I'm very glad to see the recently expressed, overwhelming, and continuing Middlebury student support for fossil fuel divestment. The College has an excellent environmental record. So it's puzzling and disappointing that the institution has for years now refused to divest out of the fossil fuels that endanger our graduates' futures.

Divestment has already been supported by hundreds of institutions around the world with investments totaling trillions of dollars. Why won't Middlebury join them by pulling its support from the fossil fuel investments that are driving dangerous climate change?

Divestment is a moral and political commitment that many colleges and universities have already made. It fits perfectly with the College's publicly stated missions and goals. Investment experts have concluded it is also quite financially responsible, given the well-known risks of investing in dirty fossil fuels as the world turns toward cleaner energy.

The continuing failure to divest over time is a stain on Middlebury's otherwise laudable environmental reputation.

—Gregory Dennis '74, *Cornwall, Vermont*

WHY I CHOSE MIDDLEBURY

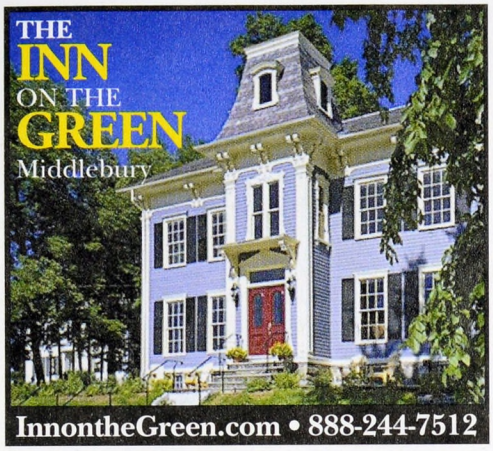
This letter is prompted by a recent Middlebury survey. I chose Middlebury for a variety of reasons. My high school English and French teachers recommended the school for graduate study; I wasn't required to take the GRE exam; and, as a New Hampshire resident, I like the proximity to my home.

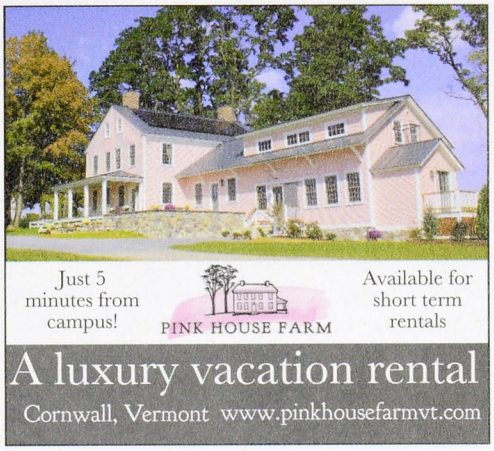
I shall always be grateful for the top-notch instruction I received at Midd, instruction that prepared me for a career as a teacher.

—Gerald Lunderville, MA Spanish '69, *Long Beach, California*

AWARDS SEASON

We were tickled gold to learn that *Middlebury Magazine* received a couple of medals with a golden hue in the annual Circle of Excellence Awards sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Brett Simison's photograph *Bandaloop*, which appeared in the fall 2017 issue, received a gold medal for "Individual Photography." The judges had this to say about Brett's work: "Very dramatic. Interesting perspective and color."

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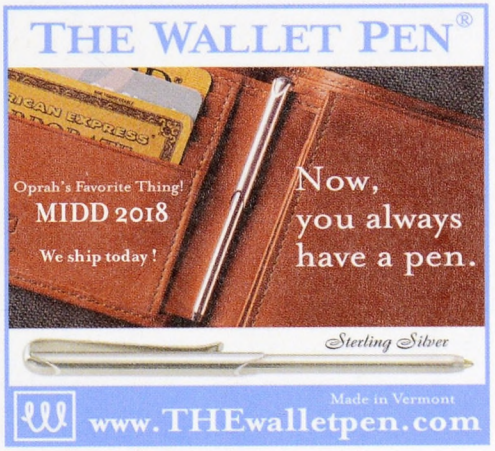

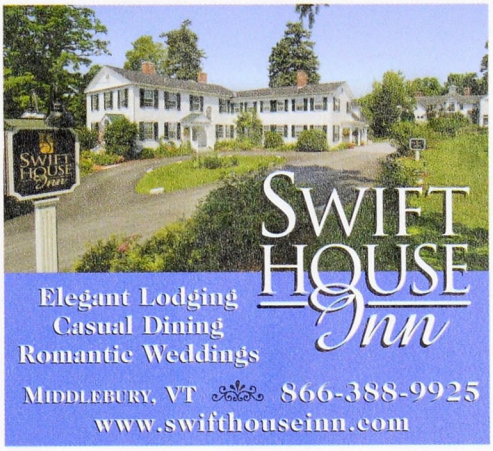

"Love the color and light and the bodies in motion against the shape of the building." "Nice color and wonderful shape of the building against the sky." The recognition is only the latest for this particular image; last January, the Society for Publications Designers named *Bandaloop* a finalist for an SPD medal, the highest award the organization grants.

The CASE awards competition yielded a gold medal in the feature writing category for the spring 2017 cover story "Through the Looking Glass." Wrote the judges: "This was a great example of when design, photography, and writing all work together to make something greater than the sum of the parts. The story selection was key here: Learning about the struggles of an African immigrant student who's an albino. While the premise about being an African in white skin is interesting, the writer did a remarkable job carrying the story through with well-chosen anecdotes and summaries of Meron Benti's biography that made readers really empathize with—and better understand—her experience." We accept these awards with humility and gratitude.

—The Editors

LETTERS POLICY

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity or clarity. On any given subject we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue, letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: *Middlebury Magazine*, 152 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

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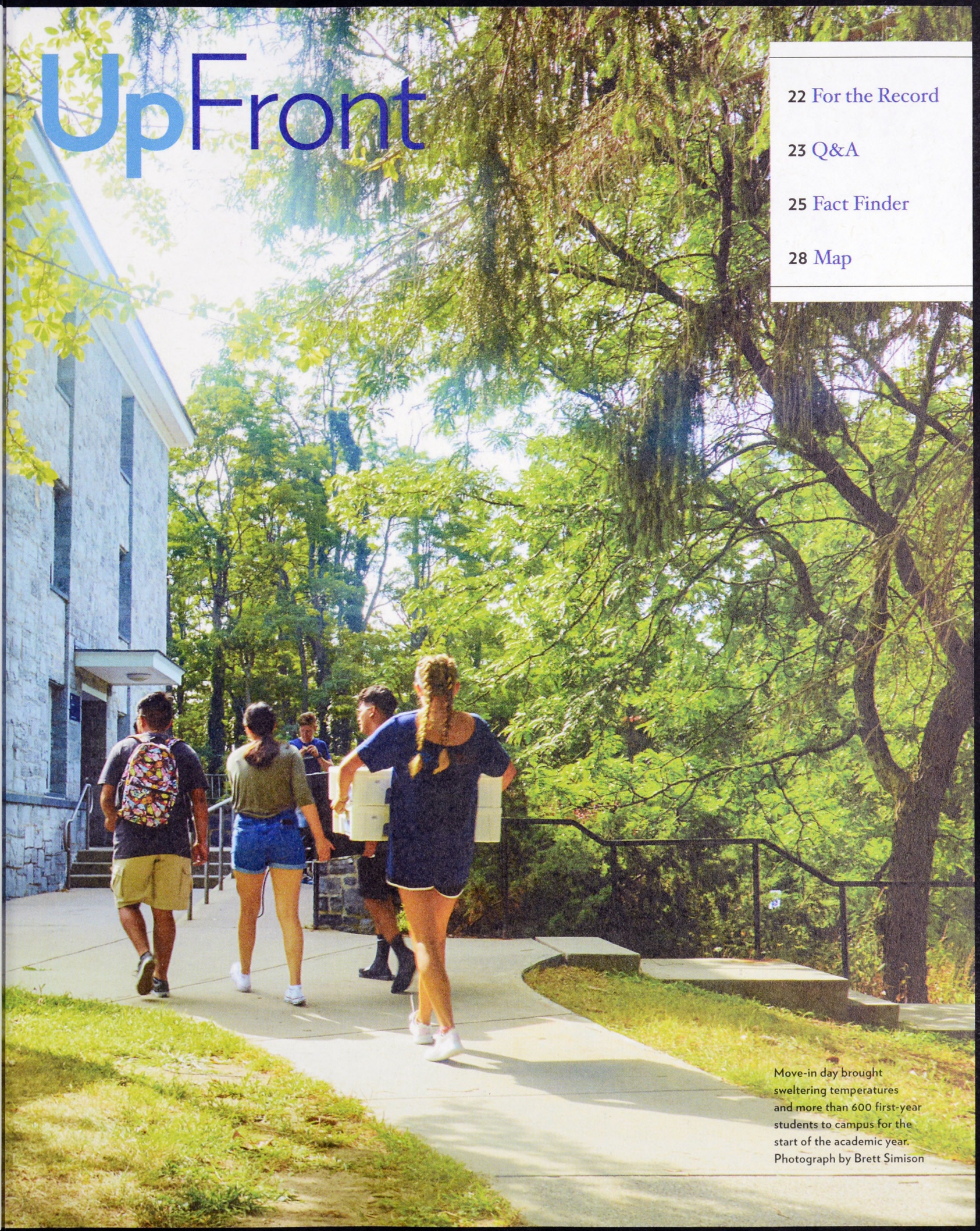


Move-in day brought sweltering temperatures and more than 600 first-year students to campus for the start of the academic year. Photograph by Brett Simison

What We're Talking About

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival brought more than 100 films to town in late August, setting a number of records in the process. Celebrating its fourth year, the annual event dedicated to showcasing fledgling filmmakers saw increases in attendance as demonstrated through various metrics: total seats filled (3,600), festival passes sold (400+), walk-up tickets sold (400+), and increase in paid attendance (+108 percent). More than 500 films were considered for inclusion, and of the accepted titles, 11 of them were written, produced, or directed by Middlebury alumni. Both of those figures are records, too.

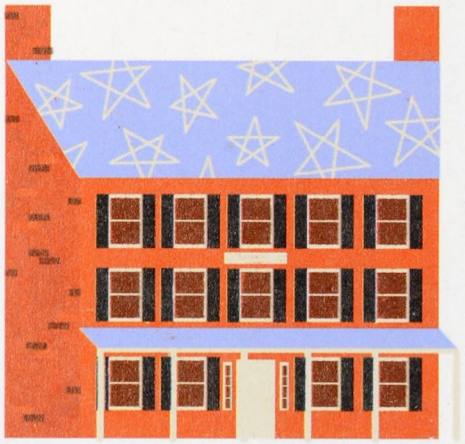
Peter Mackey '74, the longtime general manager of the Snow Bowl, has retired after a 40-year tenure at Middlebury, the last two-plus decades leading operations at the Bowl. Under his watchful eye and steady guidance, the Snow Bowl has continued to thrive as both a community ski area and home to one of the premier collegiate alpine teams in the country. During the past decade alone, Mackey has directed a major renovation of the base lodge, the recontouring of trails, and the installation of a triple chairlift. When the Bowl opens for the season this winter, it will be strange not to have Mackey at the helm.

•

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey has received a $4.5 million bequest from a trust established by Samuel F. B. Morse, the founder of Pebble Beach. The gift will establish a fund that will support student scholarships, academic programs, and other priorities at Middlebury's graduate school in Monterey, California. The gift is the largest in the Institute's history.

The first-year class—that would be the **Class of 2022**, if you're keeping track—arrived on campus on a sunny and very warm Labor Day in Vermont. The class, when including the Febs that will matriculate in several months, is the largest in school history—765 students, roughly 660 of whom moved in on September 3. This year's first-year cohort represents 45 states, plus the District of Columbia, and 63 countries. Twenty-nine percent of the class is made up of U.S. students of color and 16 percent are the first in their family to attend college.

Research conducted by econ professor **Caitlyn Myers** was featured both on page A1 of the *New York Times* and on the *Times*'s public policy blog, *The Upshot*. Myers was contracted by the Gray Lady to conduct a demographic survey of American mothers and the age at which they first give birth. Using data from the National Center for Health Statistics, Myers determined that first-time mothers in large metropolitan areas and on both coasts tend to be older than first-time moms in rural areas and in the Great Plains and the South. The headline of the *Times*'s piece: "The Age That Women Have Babies: A Gap That Divides America."



The Sheldon Museum, just off Main Street in downtown Middlebury, opened an exhibit on World War I, which features several late faculty members who served in the "war to end all wars." Among those highlighted: Jacob Ross, a physical education instructor who served as a flight surgeon; Stephen Freeman, a naval pilot who would become the College's first vice president of foreign languages; Waldo Heinrichs, also a pilot and later a professor of contemporary civilization; and Werner Neuse, an infantryman in the German army who would later teach in Middlebury's German Department. The exhibit runs until the middle of November.

Nearly 50 new **faculty members** began teaching at Middlebury this fall, a cohort that includes 15 tenure-track professors, 15 visiting professors, six professors of the practice, and 11 lecturers, instructors, and teaching assistants.

Mez Baker-Médard, an assistant professor of environmental studies, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for research that will take her to the Institute of Marine Sciences in Madagascar this coming spring. Baker-Médard will be investigating the history of four conservation projects in the southwestern and northeastern regions of Madagascar for a project titled "Gendering the Commons: The Politics of Marine Conservation and Fisheries Governance in Madagascar."

Toni Morrison's collection of essays, ***The Origin of Others***, has been getting a lot of attention on campus this fall. Not only was the book selected for summer reading for the incoming first-year class and the focus of subsequent discussions during orientation, but also it was the topic for the 15th annual Clifford Symposium, which was held at the end of September. J Finley—one of the organizers of the event and an assistant professor of American studies and gender, sexuality, and feminist studies—said Morrison's essays provided a starting point for the Middlebury community to discuss the most pressing social issues of our times. Judging by the level of community engagement during the three days in September (and the discussions beforehand), most everyone on campus seemed to agree with this sentiment.

The **Middlebury Area Land Trust** held the 15th annual Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) Trek in September, with three options for racers: the full 19-mile loop around the TAM, a 10K run, and a "family fun run" of two miles. Junior Theo Henderson completed the 19-mile run in the fastest time (2:27:24), setting a new course record with the effort.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORIS LORA

Q & A

Year One

An acclaimed poet, professor, and translator, Jennifer Grotz has just concluded her first year as director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences. *Middlebury Magazine* caught up with her earlier this fall to chat about her first year on the job.

I know you're no stranger to the Writers' Conference, having made the trek up the mountain for many summers since 1995, but this was your first year as director. What was the most surprising change?
The most surprising change this summer (weirdly, because it was somewhat my own doing) was just all the new faces on the mountain. We had a lot of new faculty this summer, and Bread Loaf continues to be a truly diverse—in every sense of the word—group of writers.

And what was blessedly the same?
Blessedly the same (and that's the perfect way to put it) was that all of these new and diverse faces still joined together and made a really productive and inclusive community. There was this great sense of exchange, of listening to and learning from each other. Also blessedly the same were the tater tots served at breakfast. (I'm crazy about tots.)

I'd like to stay with this notion of a new faculty bringing added diversity and fresh thinking to a storied program. Threading that needle isn't easy and could have backfired if the collaboration hadn't happened. Why do you think it worked so well?
You know, I think it worked well for two reasons. One is that some of the new faculty were new as faculty members but weren't necessarily new to Bread Loaf. They knew the place, the magic of the place, and the potential it has, and they wanted to return to it and also to share it with other new faces. This is one of the things I love most about Bread Loaf—how at its best it works as a kind of ecosystem, for lack of a better term, that includes writers at every stage of the writing life or career—and how writers at all different stages are there modeling for each other all the various possibilities of a writing life. And what the writing life looks like over the long haul: several of the folks serving on faculty for the first time were actually former "waiter" work-scholars or fellows or even former contributors, so there was this sense of joy of returning to the conference now on faculty.

And the other reason I think the new faculty worked so well together was that I tried to do something that the former director, Michael Collier, also did: that is, to look hard for amazing writers who were also gifted teachers. It's that combination that goes a long way toward helping to forge a really positive and productive community.

You are just the seventh director in the conference's history—and the first woman to hold the job. What does this milestone mean for Bread Loaf?
I'll confess that there is a little part of me that wants to downplay the significance that I'm a woman, the first woman to direct the conferences. I think that comes from wanting acknowledgment that my skills and experience play the most significant part in my being appointed, on the one hand, and also my hope that our country might be a little more advanced in terms of equality than it is.

But of course it is hugely significant, now more than ever, that the Writers' Conferences has its first woman director—and I'm proud to be that person. It represents an important milestone, as you say; it also enacts a kind of following through that it's important for institutions to do. I mean, it's one thing to state a commitment to diversity, inclusion, equality, which many institutions are doing, but the next step is to enact that commitment in the community—and leadership—of the institution.

What does it mean to you?
Well, it's a joy. It feels like a rare privilege to be given an opportunity, a position, that calls upon—and makes use of—all the experience and skill I've gained as a writer, teacher, and arts administrator over the past two decades. So in that way, it feels like a culmination of some kind.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRETT SIMISON

DOWNLOAD

Why I Love Freely Improvised Music

By Kareem Khalifa, Professor of Philosophy

Somewhere along the way, you've probably encountered musical improvisation—perhaps at a jazz concert or while listening to rock bands such as Phish or the Grateful Dead. But what's the added value of listening to improvised music?

To answer this question, transport yourself to the land of make-believe. Imagine that an improvising ensemble happened, by sheer accident, to play an identical version of a "composition" performed by a non-improvising ensemble. The improvising ensemble achieves everything that the non-improvising ensemble does, plus they deserve further credit for composing the tune. And that's the magic of improvisation: the achievement of composing music by performing it.

For precisely this reason, freely improvised music is my favorite music to play. Unlike more traditional forms of musical improvisation, free improvisation tries to accomplish music's perennial aims—to create sounds that evoke emotions, spark curiosity, cultivate wonder, play with our expectations, and so on—by challenging (and frequently abandoning) conventional notions of rhythm, harmony, timbre, and form. Thus, the best freely improvised music is an especially significant achievement: it creates moving and meaningful music without relying upon the most familiar (and reliable) means for doing so. When done well, it overcomes the contingencies of the traditions into which we're thrown and allows us to bear witness to new ways of bringing beauty into our lives.

NEWS

Horror Comes Home

Just in time for Halloween comes a horror film that will simultaneously scare the pants off you and likely leave you stammering, "I know that guy . . . and that restaurant . . . and that house . . ."

That's because *The Witch in the Window* stars Alex Draper '88, an associate professor of theater at Middlebury, and was filmed entirely on location in Addison County. The indie film was written and directed by Andy Mitton '01 and had its U.S. premiere last summer in New York City, where it was selected by the Film Society at Lincoln Center to be part of its Scary Movies festival lineup. (The film fest is billed as "New York's top horror festival.")

The story of a divorced father (Draper) who takes his 12-year-old son to "middle-of-nowhere Vermont" to renovate a farmhouse he's purchased—only to find it haunted by a former occupant—*The Witch in the Window* is touted as a character-driven psychological thriller.

And reviews indicate that the movie is living up to its promotional language. The *Village Voice*—before giving up the, um, ghost—called the film "frightening and shockingly emotional," adding, "Knowing what's happening doesn't necessarily mean feeling any safer." The website Rotten Tomatoes gives the movie an 80 percent "fresh" rating and has posted a trailer along with contributor reviews.

The Witch in the Window was filmed in and around Middlebury in the summer of 2017, and in addition to Draper's role, 14 students assisted the crew in production roles. And the haunted house? It's owned by the College and can be found on South Street Extension. ("When you look at [the house], you say to yourself, 'There's a 100 percent chance that place is haunted,'" Draper told the *Addison Independent*.)

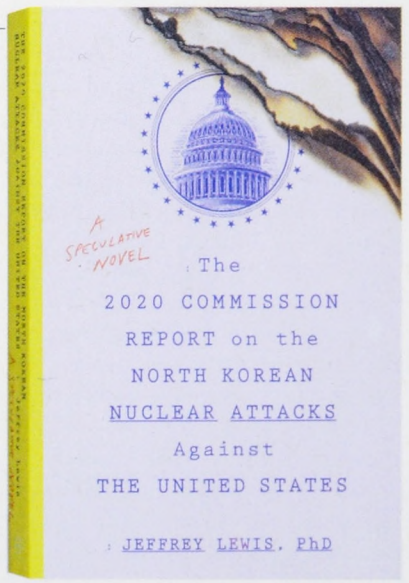
The horror flick continues to tour at festivals, with stops scheduled in Telluride, Colorado; Philadelphia; London; and Sitges, Spain. And later this fall, *The Witch in the Window* will be released on the horror-thriller streaming website Shudder, with a Blu-ray release scheduled for 2019—just in case you'd like to watch the movie in the comfort of your own home, with all of the lights on.

REVIEW

The 2020 Commission

By Jeffrey Lewis, Director of the East Asian Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute

Blurb from the *Economist*, "Under a Mushroom Cloud," August 9, 2018

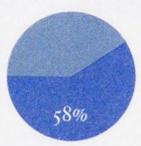


Fans of *Arms Control Wonk*, Mr Lewis's podcast, will expect notes of absurdist and scornful humour; they will not be disappointed. More surprising is that, in a sense, the book is optimistic about American democracy. The devastating blow that it envisages might undo even the sturdiest polity. Given the existing rifts in American society at a time of relative peace, it is easy to see the recriminations and repercussions after a nuclear catastrophe capsizing its politics altogether. Yet Mr Lewis's premise depends on America's institutions continuing to function in recognisable form. That implies a bedrock faith in the resilience of the republic—more, perhaps, than soberly assessed open-source intelligence might warrant.

PHOTOGRAPH (ABOVE LEFT) COURTESY OF ISTOCK. ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH BY TODD BALFOUR.

Ruby Review

The New England Review (NER), *Middlebury's award-winning literary journal, turns 40 this year. A quarterly journal of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, NER has also evolved with the times and now includes a robust digital presence, a reading series, live storytelling events, and a podcast. We peel back the cover of this gem of a magazine.*



Poetry in Vol. 39, No. 3

Nonfiction in Vol. 39, No. 3

Fiction in Vol. 39, No. 3

4,527

Pieces published in *NER* since 1978

2,219

Authors published in *NER* since 1978

25

Reviews, poems, and nonfiction by Rachel Hadas published in *NER*

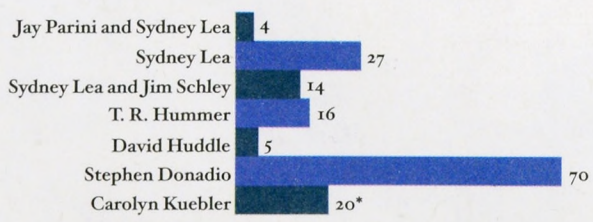
Home(s)

NER was founded by Jay Parini and Sydney Lea—not in Vermont, but in New Hampshire (at the legendary Hanover eating establishment Lou's). In 1982, the journal briefly affiliated with the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference before officially becoming a stand-alone magazine published by Middlebury College in 1987.

Say What?

NER has been hosting reading series since the spring of 2011. Since that time, nearly 90 writers—a luminous cast that includes the founding editors, a couple of Writers' Conferences directors, and the current editor, Carolyn Kuebler—have read from their work.

NER has had just seven editors in its 40 years. We track the number of issues helmed by each:


Jay Parini and Sydney Lea 4
Sydney Lea 27
Sydney Lea and Jim Schley 14
T. R. Hummer 16
David Huddle 5
Stephen Donadio 70
Carolyn Kuebler 20*

*By end of 2018

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL DAHM

DAY IN THE LIFE

On the Clock

MIDDLEBURY HAS SEVEN REFERENCE librarians, each with their own area of responsibility, such as literatures and cultures or science data. To get a sense of what their professional lives are like, we asked Amy Frazier, the film and media librarian, to keep track of everything she did one day early this semester.

9:00 a.m.: After sorting through my email and replying to any urgent messages, I take advantage of a quiet morning in the library to work on editing a new video tutorial: "Top Tips to Get Your Research Started." Video tutorials can serve as helpful backup to students, providing short demonstrations of fundamental research skills in a way that's accessible at any time, from anywhere on campus (or even beyond).

10:30 a.m.: Meet with a faculty member to finalize plans for a display highlighting audio and photographic materials from Special Collections in support of the Clifford Symposium.

1:00 p.m.: Meet with another faculty member to work out the details of a session next week; the class is built around a popular TV show, so we discuss ways both to introduce incoming first-year students to the library and its services, and also to make sure that they know how to find resources specifically for this class. I'm eager to work in as many show-related references as possible; I'm a huge fan of this franchise. Afterward, I take some time to focus on planning and designing the lesson. We've agreed that we'd like to do a scavenger hunt to get students up and moving around the library, so I work on revising a previous exercise to reflect the needs of this particular class.

1:45 p.m.: Begin recording voice-over audio for video tutorial, mostly getting a test track to try out with the current edit.

2:30 p.m.: Go to Wilson Media Lab to help a digital media tutor with a technical issue that has arisen during the editing of another video; we discuss the merits of jump cuts and methods for removing annoying audio pops from the video's soundtrack. She's doing a really great job.

3:00 p.m.: Begin my shift at the Research Desk. Since it's the beginning of the fall term, most questions are from students still learning their way around the library. One student comes looking for a particular arts journal, and I show her how to determine whether we subscribe to it, and how to access it. While she's there, I sneak in a quick stealth lesson on the uses of, and differences between, MIDCAT and Summon.

3:45 p.m.: Still at the Research Desk, I use the time between questions to work on other projects. Specifically, I'm going through a list of books drawn from this year's Clifford Symposium reading to place on display alongside our video. Displays like this ensure that these related works are readily available to everyone who comes into the library.

4:15 p.m.: Using the last bit of my Research Desk shift, I turn my attention to the research guides for my liaison departments. We've acquired some great new databases and other resources, and I want to make sure that they're easy to find for both students and faculty.

5:00 p.m.: With my Research Desk shift over, I return to my office to get things in order for tomorrow. I cross each completed task off my daily to-do list and copy a couple of items over to tomorrow so I know exactly where to start my next day. Then I head home for dinner and maybe a video game.

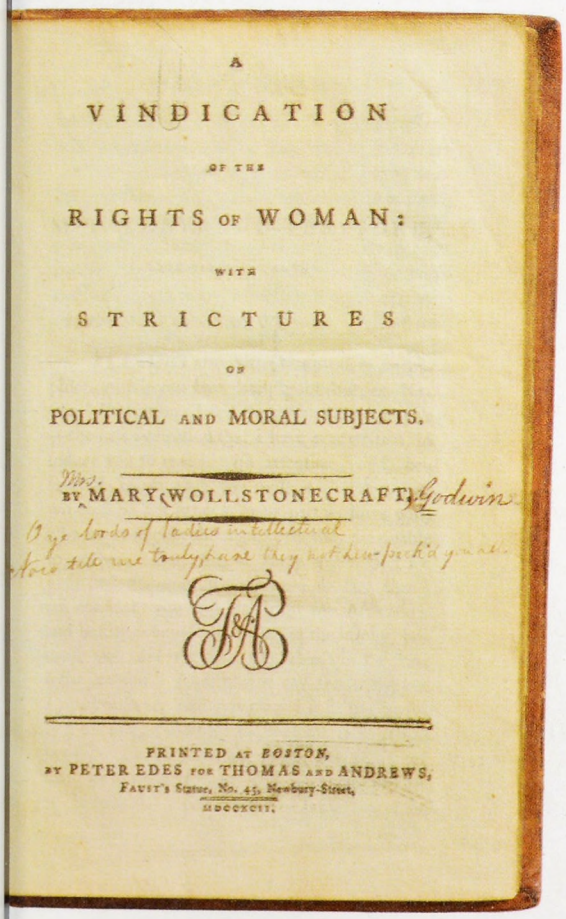
ILLUSTRATION BY ELLEN SURREY

QUOTATION

"When you look out from Cinder Cone, every peak, every little bump in every direction is a volcano. All the topography you see is volcanoes that have erupted over the past 20,000 to 50,000 years."

—**Kristina Walowski**, assistant professor of geology. Walowski recently led a field research trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park in northern California.

ARCHIVE


A
VINDICATION
OF THE
RIGHTS OF WOMAN:
WITH
STRICTURES
ON
POLITICAL AND MORAL SUBJECTS.
BY MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT
PRINTED AT BOSTON,
BY PETER EDES FOR THOMAS AND ANDREWS,
FAUST'S STATUE, No. 45, Newbury-Street,
MDCCXCII.

Before Her Time In 1792, an uneducated single mother named Mary Wollstonecraft published a book, titled *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures of Political and Moral Subjects*, in response to a proposal by the French National Assembly meant to establish universal education. While Wollstonecraft supported the cause, she was discouraged by the suggestions that the proper place for women was in the home and that their education should surround their domestic activities. Her book argued that social differences in class and gender were determined by culture, not nature, and that they could be overcome through education alone. Condemning slavery, she insisted that all human beings were created free and equal and that the restrictions placed on women to devote their lives solely to being dutiful wives and mothers were unjust.

As well as being a woman of substance, bravery, and historic convictions, she was also the mother of another revered figure—Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818). Though Wollstonecraft died of septicemia in 1797—a mere 10 days after Shelley, her second daughter, was born—she had already made a lasting literary impact.

Middlebury's copy of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* is a first American edition and number 642 of the College library's original 10,000 volumes. But there are indications that early Middlebury students were not ready for Wollstonecraft's liberated message. Someone—likely a student—amended the author's name, adding "Mrs." before it and her married name, "Godwin," after it. And another added a handwritten couplet: "O ye lords of ladies intellectual / Now tell me truly, have they not hen-peck'd you all."

We hope it's not too late now to give Wollstonecraft the respect she deserved back then. Special Collections is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Frankenstein* with a library exhibit this fall. We can think of no better time to recognize Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter, Mary Shelley.

NUMBERS

Middlebury's Center for Careers and Internships (CCI) saw a record number of students—and potential employers—come through its doors at Adirondack House during the 2017–18 academic year (and following summer). On-campus programming, visits by potential employers, and an expansion of online resources all factored into this record-setting year.

3,700
STUDENT ATTENDEES AT CCI EVENTS

110
VISITS BY POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS TO CAMPUS

12,000
JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES POSTED BY CCI

375
INTERNSHIPS FUNDED THROUGH CCI IN 2017–18

850,000
DOLLARS IN FUNDING FOR INTERNSHIPS THROUGH CCI

PHOTOGRAPH BY TODD BALFOUR

Let's Eat

If you find yourself on Middlebury's campus, you won't go hungry. In addition to its three dining halls—Proctor, Ross, and Atwater—the College features a spread of eateries that cater to students burning the midnight oil in the library, skiers hitting the slopes at the Snow Bowl, Panther fans cheering on the hockey or football teams, as well as folks looking for an afternoon snack.

ILLUSTRATION BY ILEANA SOON

1 BOOKS & JAVA
Wilson Café is situated in the Davis Family Library, and it is a hive of activity morning, afternoon, and night. Wilson recently began serving Starbucks coffee, which pairs nicely with a full-service bagel bar. Assorted snacks are also available.

2 HOT SPOT
The Grille remains a favorite dining spot for faculty and staff during the weekday noon hour—and for students looking to grab some grub late night on the weekends. Salads, pizza, and pub fare predominate. And the Dr. Feelgood is still on the menu.

3 PLACE TO CHILL
Just downstairs from the Grille sits Crossroads Café, the only student-run eatery with a permanent locale on campus. Coffee drinks and smoothies are the beverages of choice here. Crossroads is also the campus home for sushi makers "Sushi w/Gusto."

4 POP UP
Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, Dolci—the student-run "pop-up" restaurant—continues to serve as a culinary presence on campus. Dolci serves multicourse meals on three Friday evenings each month, with fare that is both creative and tasty.

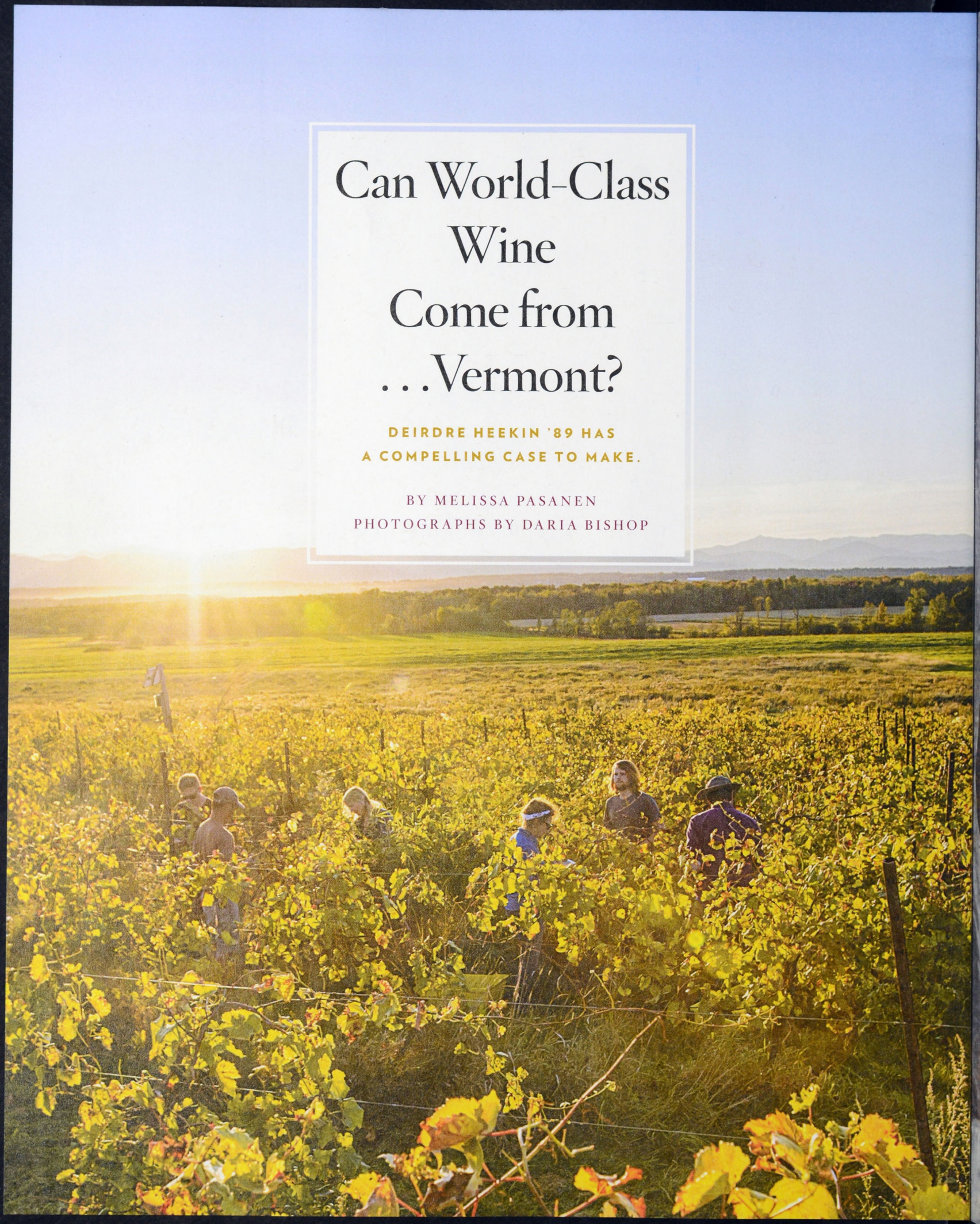
5 AT THE GAME
There are two good reasons to visit the concession stands at Alumni Stadium or Kenyon Arena. At football games, you are supporting the Black Student Union, while at hockey contests, you're benefiting the softball team. Plus, who doesn't love a hot dog!

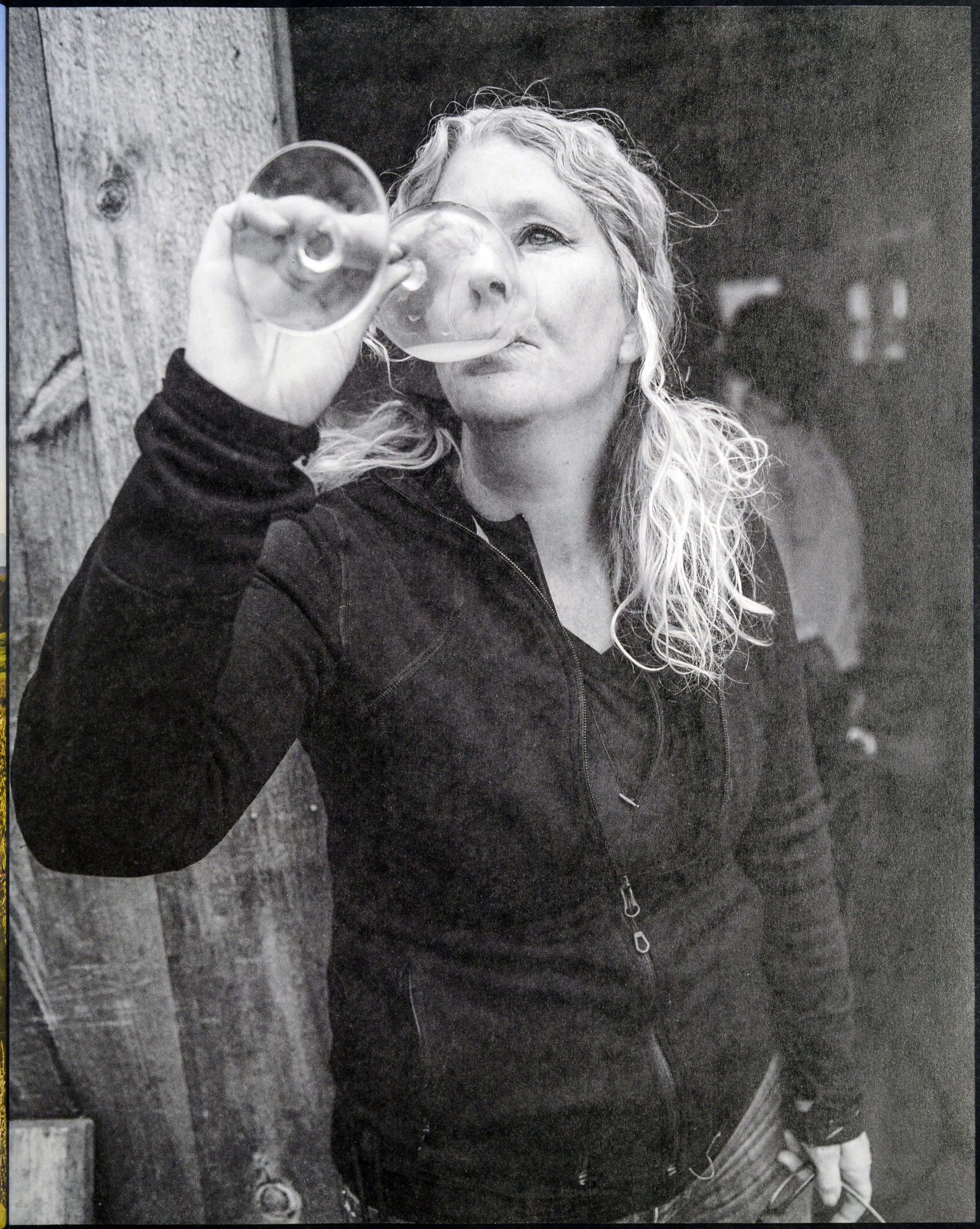
6 THE 19TH HOLE
The Ralph Myhre Golf Course has a new spot for food and suds: Above Par Food & Spirits. In addition to offering tall cold ones to golfers just finishing a round, the restaurant specializes in burgers, made with local beef. Good food, plus you can't beat the view.

Can World-Class Wine Come from . . . Vermont?

DEIRDRE HEEKIN '89 HAS A COMPELLING CASE TO MAKE.

BY MELISSA PASANEN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DARIA BISHOP





On a warm, late-July afternoon, Deirdre Heekin '89 was checking her Vergennes vineyard. The four-acre parcel on a former dairy farm boasts a panoramic view of the Adirondack Mountains across Lake Champlain, but Heekin was focused elsewhere. Carefully, she pulled apart long tendrils of leaves and cradled each cluster of fruit with one hand while picking off unhealthy grapes with the other. "We touch every bunch," she said, no small task in a vineyard that yields about nine tons of grapes each year. Neat piles of pruned branches followed a gentle slope down the line of trellis posts bearing the names of varieties cultivated in each block: marquette, la crescent, brianna, and frontenac.

These cold-hardy hybrids are deemed grapes non grata by many fine wine authorities, pale pretenders to the "noble" wine grapes like legendary Burgundian pinot noir and Piedmontese nebbiolo. Bred from American native wild species crossed with European Vitis vinifera, such hybrids were designed to thrive through short growing seasons and harsh winters and are now cultivated across Canada and the northern U.S. And yet—despite the fact that modern-day versions of the most famous French grapes are themselves pest-resistant hybrids developed after the mid-19th-century phylloxera scourge—northern-climate hybrids are, in the words of *Imbibe* magazine, "the Rodney Dangerfield of the wine world: no respect."

For the last decade, armed with her thoughtfully grown and made La Garagista wines, Heekin has been staging a peacefully persistent—and surprisingly successful—insurgence in defense of these hybrids. "We think about them as regional varieties. It's about diversity," she explained. "To me, they're uniquely American because we're a melting pot, a big old mish-mash." Their sturdiness and adaptation to her climate also permits Heekin to farm as she believes best: using organic and biodynamic practices, without synthetic chemicals, and, as she puts it, "working with nature rather than against it," to produce wines that are distinctively of Vermont. Really, though, wine from Vermont? Made with grapes you've never heard of?

Heekin and her husband, Caleb Barber '88, knew what they were up against when they named their tiny winery La Garagista. The French *garagiste* movement of the late 1970s and early '80s set out to prove one didn't need to own a château in Bordeaux to make the finest wine. For a new winemaker in a region with no wine heritage, working with grapes no one took seriously, it was a bold reference.

But it turns out to have been prescient. Heekin, La Garagista's winemaker of record, has since been broadly recognized as a game changer, named one of five "rule-breaking winemakers to know" by *Food & Wine* magazine, credited with creating a new regional model that could broaden the geography and criteria for world-class wines.

Influential *New York Times* wine critic Eric Asimov was a notable early convert to the La Garagista camp. After he visited the couple's diversified home farm and winery in Barnard, Vermont, in 2015, he described Heekin's wines as "so soulful and delicious, they challenge crucial assumptions long taken for granted." Later that year, he highlighted her 2013 "floral, spicy, lively" Damejeanne, a blend of red marquette with a little white la crescent, among his top dozen bottles of the year. "I never imagined I would fall in love with a Vermont wine," he acknowledged.

Sparked by Asimov's enthusiasm, positive attention for La Garagista built while Heekin continued working steadily toward her goals. Quietly confident but without a hint of hubris, she listens as much as she talks. She constantly seeks to better understand how to coax the best out of the land and the grapes of Vermont, poring over geology maps and enthusiastically identifying types of rock and clay. Rather than winemaker, she prefers the term "winegrower" based on her deep belief that wine is made in the field, not the cellar. "I just think of myself as someone who's trying to hone a craft," Heekin said, "following agricultural practices and doing work in the cellar to provide the best expression of place."

"Deirdre has vision. She is one of the most sensitive and intuitive winemakers I have ever met," said wine journalist and author Alice Feiring, another early supporter. "She figured out how to make wines that were an expression of Vermont, not California wannabes. Anyone can make wine, but not everyone has something to say."

The most recent 12 months have delivered a trio of high-profile accolades that have propelled Heekin and her work to a broader stage. She was named a finalist for *Wine Enthusiast*'s Winemaker of the Year and a semifinalist for the James Beard Foundation's Outstanding Beverage Professional of 2017. She also earned the title of *Imbibe*'s Wine Person of the Year.

Not only is Heekin "singlehandedly putting Vermont wines on the map," wrote *Wine Enthusiast*, "she's also proving that hybrid grape varieties can make serious wines. And she's doing it all using biodynamic farming practices with minimal intervention." *Imbibe* highlighted Heekin's commitment to forging her own path: not trying to mimic European wine styles but, instead, allowing the lesser-known grape varieties to speak for themselves to produce wines of "head-turning clarity and beauty."

Such acknowledgment, said Mitchell Davis, chief of strategy for the James Beard Foundation, "shows that people are paying attention" not only to Heekin, but to new wine regions and grape varieties and those practicing low-input farming and winemaking. "She has broken through."

While honored by the recognition, Heekin hopes it signals a meaningful shift of perspective within the wine world. "It's about looking forward, about hybrids and the little guys," she said, referring to small wineries. "It's really encouraging for those of us who make wine while caring for the land and thinking about climate change."

The resilience of hardy hybrids, Heekin believes, can help growers cope with increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and produce wines with the least possible interventions: no synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers in the vineyard and no additives or technology-based manipulation in the winemaking cellar. The resulting wines fully deliver the distinctive character of a specific place during a particular season, what the French call terroir. "In a world where homogeneity is becoming more and more the norm, why would we want to make everything taste the same?" she wrote in her 2014 book, *An Unlikely Vineyard: The Education of a Farmer and Her Quest for Terroir*.

It was this book, Heekin's third, including one coauthored with Barber, that piqued Asimov's interest. "What was inspiring for me," he reflected, "was the way she saw wine's place as part of a complete and diverse farming life." It reminded him, he said, of the traditional European wine model. "It pays to be a brilliant writer writing about your own wine," he added with a chuckle.

When he tasted the wines for the first time, Asimov recalled that they obliged him to reevaluate his own negative impression of hybrid grapes. "They were a real eye-opener," he admitted. "They do taste different, not familiar in the way vinifera wines are, but they were great. I realized if wines can be this good made from hybrid grapes, then we really need to step back and reconsider. It's like discovering a bunch of different colors to paint with."

Just as Asimov never imagined he'd fall in love with a Vermont wine, Heekin never imagined she would become a Vermont winemaker.

Heekin, originally from Indiana, and Barber, who grew up in southern Vermont, met at Middlebury in the dance program. "It was a little bit of a lightning strike," acknowledged Heekin with a smile. "I think it took about four days from the day we met." After they graduated with degrees in English and film (Heekin) and German and philosophy (Barber), an Italian classmate and fellow dancer invited them to come work with her in Italy. The couple married and bought one-way tickets for a yearlong working honeymoon teaching modern dance and English.

The hybrid grapes—bred from American native wild species crossed with European Vitis vinifera—are designed to thrive in short growing seasons.

In Italy, they fell for the culture, specifically how everyday life centered on gathering around the table; enjoying simple, good food and wine; and valuing the land and tradition that anchored it all. When the couple returned to settle in Vermont, "we knew that we wanted to work for ourselves and do something in food," Barber said, "and the idea of going to our workday apart from each other was just not interesting to us."

After building skills in restaurants in both Vermont and Italy, in 1996 the couple opened a small bakery and restaurant in Woodstock called Pane e Salute, which translates to "bread and health." They grew much of their own produce for the menu of authentic, unfussy Italian dishes like crisp-crusted Tuscan pizza and saffron-scented risotto, earning national acclaim from media including *Bon Appétit* and *Travel & Leisure*.

At Pane e Salute, Barber cooked and Heekin ran the front of the house. From the outset, she said, she approached wine as they do in Italy: "Wine in Italy was about food: wine is food." As the restaurant's wine buyer, she had many opportunities to taste, and, on regular trips back to Italy,

the couple sought out vintners to learn from. Heekin's inaugural winemaking forays—in her clawfoot bathtub with purchased grapes—were to educate herself: "I wanted to taste it at every point in the process, to understand fermentation viscerally." But Heekin recognized she needed to grow her own fruit to experience the full winemaking arc. In 2007, the couple visited Chris Granstrom '74, whose Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven, Vermont, was a leader of cold-hardy hybrid grape cultivation in the region. They loaded 100 vines in the back of the car and planted them in a meadow at their Barnard homestead.

Heekin's initial approach to winemaking was influenced by the wines she favored for the restaurant. There was a clear pattern of organic and biodynamic cultivation followed by minimal intervention by the winemaker in the cellar. Such wines are often called "natural," "raw," or "alive." "I came to it through my palate," she reflected. "My palate was already looking for that purity."

"Natural" is a wine-world hot button. There is no official definition of "natural wine," but, as Asimov has explained in the *New York Times*, most are made "by farmers who practice classic forms of viticulture and winemakers who may try to guide the path of production but don't seek to control it." Heekin outlined her four guiding principles: Farming responsibly, always biodynamically or organically; using only native yeasts for fermentation, which means yeasts that are already present on the fruit or in the cellar; adding no or minimal sulphur dioxide, an almost universally used stabilizer and preservative that does exist, in trace amounts, in all wine; using no other chemical interventions or manipulation.

Feiring, an early and vocal natural wine proponent, sees the movement as a needed correction to an era of overmanipulated wines. There is a long list of winemaking additives allowed but invisible to consumers because disclosure is not required. At one end of the spectrum, wine has become characterless, alcoholic fruit juice dumbed down for the mass market, and, at the other, some high-profile wines have been effectively designed through the use of chemicals and other modern technology to meet the expectations of the ratings-obsessed. The point, as Heekin elaborated in her book, is that many wines are "no longer the wine that was made solely and naturally from the grapes grown in the field . . . no longer a representation of place, or of what the farmer grew."

The wine columnist for *Bon Appétit*, Marissa Ross, focuses almost exclusively on natural wines and personifies their growing impact. A staunch defender, she also understands why they can be controversial. Because winemakers are not micromanaging the process, the wines are inherently more variable, she acknowledged: "That's what makes it exciting, scary, and sometimes even frustrating." People expect typicity, Ross continued: "They want wines that taste how sangiovese should taste, or grassy like sauvignon blanc should taste. Natural wines aren't that."

Hybrid grapes and natural wines are not inherently linked, but, in Vermont, Heekin has taken on both because, together, they support her vision to make geographically specific wines that respect the environment and allow the wine to tell its own vivid story of place. The fact that she had to blaze her own trail has been both challenging and freeing, she said, "like being on a new frontier."

When Ross first heard there was a female winemaker in Vermont making natural wines with hybrid grapes, she recalled, "I said, 'Wait a minute. That's crazy.'" Heekin is a pioneer in many ways, Ross said, "as a female, as an American producer not in a state we think of for wine. And her wines do an incredible service to hybrid grapes."

During her first two years, Heekin followed biodynamic practices very closely. In addition to laboriously applying protective plant-based medicines daily and paying meticulous attention to the whole vineyard ecosystem, she tracked how the vines responded to the lunar cycle and scheduled work like pruning accordingly. She later took an intensive biodynamics course in France where the students went so far as to taste the soil to evaluate it. While skeptics dismiss biodynamics as mystical at best, Heekin became a believer through tangible results. With 11 acres under vine now spread over three locations in Vermont, biodynamic principles still guide her but, "we are not dogmatic," she said. "We believe really strongly in the fluidity of honest experimentation."

In Vergennes in late July, Heekin's assistant had just sprayed the vineyard with a solution of kaolin clay, nettle tea, and elemental sulphur, which sparkled softly from the leaves like fairy dust. After a wet and humid week, the biodynamic treatment was intended to help prevent downy and powdery mildew. A conventional grower, Heekin said, would likely spray antifungal chemicals a couple times a season no matter what, and also use herbicides to keep weeds and grass in check. "You sacrifice the health of the soil when you do that," Heekin said. A fundamental biodynamic tenet is that natural diversity has immense value; allowing a variety of plants and wildlife to thrive provides critical clues and services to both the cultivated crop and to overall landscape health. Heekin pointed out abundant Queen Anne's lace among the vines. "It is nature's way of managing compacted clay soils—because the roots are a natural tiller," she explained. But sometimes, she added, "nature needs a little help,"so she and her crew till between rows to help break up and aerate the earth.

Vergennes is always the first of the vineyards ready for harvest. Depending on the season, picking starts as early as Labor Day followed by intense weeks of harvests and winemaking with repeated trips between Vergennes, West Addison, and Barnard. Although La Garagista wines are distributed in New England, New York, and California as well as in several European countries, production is still tiny. Last year, the winery produced 800 cases, fewer than 7,000 bottles of wine. The goal is to reach 2,000 cases over the next five years. "I don't want to be bigger," Heekin said. "I want to be in the field."

In the spring of 2017, stretched thin between the demands of the growing winery and busy restaurant, Heekin and Barber closed Pane e Salute after more than two decades. "It's allowed for some opening up of creativity for both of us," Heekin said. Barber started writing a regular recipe column for the *Boston Globe* and is working on a cookbook project. Heekin is developing a book proposal on hybrid grapes and the future of wine. Their new, cozy, on-farm Hart Tavernetta hosts events and pop-up gatherings for which Barber still cooks. "Our original idea when we first came back from Italy was a table at the center of the farm," Heekin said. "It's taken 20 years, but now we're there."

Early on a Tuesday last October, about 10 people gathered in Barnard at the home farm and winery to help with winemaking, including the traditional grape-stomping of frontenac gris picked the day before. Prince was playing over the sound system and assistant winemaker Krista Scruggs was extracting deep ruby juice from a batch of crushed grapes.

The harvest was well under way though a little later than usual due to the summer's wet start. "You work with what nature gives you. It's different every season," Heekin said. "Others strive for consistency, but we shoot for expressing that difference in each season." Difficult years, she added, are almost more valuable: "They give you new insights, new possibilities." Heekin sipped thoughtfully from a glass of wine in mid-fermentation made a couple weeks prior. "We try to taste a lot during harvest to inspire ourselves," she said. Tasting is critical to understanding wine development and to gauge its long-term potential. "What I'm

looking for is that narrative arc," she explained. "We've been talking a lot about the mid-palate of wine. It might have a nice beginning and end, but it's not good when the middle falls out of a wine." Texture is also important: "how it feels in the mouth, on the tongue," she added. "Then there's the liveliness, this little burst of light on the palate, this kernel in the flavor that is alive."

Scruggs, a 33-year-old Californian, was in her second season at La Garagista; she has since launched her own Zafa Wines, working in both Vermont and Texas, and was just named to *Wine Enthusiast*'s Top 40 Under 40 Tastemakers of 2018. Heekin and Barber inspired and empowered the young winemaker to start her own label, she said. In addition to wine knowledge, Scruggs credited the couple with much deeper lessons. "Learning to be patient, not necessarily with the wines but with other people," she said. "They've been doubted, but they never get riled up. They are the epitome of what is not ego." Heekin takes her role as a mentor seriously, particularly for women. Another title she claims proudly is "*vigneronne*," the female version of the French *vigneron*. It is a word that Asimov used to describe her. "She embodies the French term: someone who grows grapes and shepherds them into wine," he said. "Her technique of nonintervention is superb. She is so attuned, and it is her skills and passion and intuitive understanding that make her wine so superb."

Whether gender has shaped her philosophy is impossible to tease out, but Heekin acknowledged her role as a woman in wine: "I do bring a certain set of things from my gender that are different from males. And there are still relatively few of us." Ross, of *Bon Appétit*, who previously worked in the entertainment industry, lamented the dearth of mutual support among women in traditionally male-dominated fields. "I think what Deirdre is doing is so impactful," Ross said. "She's helping other women come up. She's the Amy Poehler of wine."

"We try to taste a lot during harvest to inspire ourselves," Heekin says. Tasting is critical to understanding wine development.

In Barnard, outside among the apple trees, a long table was set with mismatched plates, jelly jars for water next to wine glasses, and vases of cosmos picked from between the vines with dahlias from the flower gardens. Chickens strutted about, free-ranging through the kitchen garden and out back under the plum trees. Barber sliced sunset-hued tomatoes on the balcony that serves as his summer outdoor kitchen. There was local smoked chicken, grilled eggplant, and red potatoes from the gardens, half a wheel of Vermont cheese, and fresh bread.

And there was wine, of course, including wine-to-be: just-pressed, very slightly fermented juice of grapes harvested the day before. With theatrical flair, Barber sabered open a bottle of House Music, a *pétillant naturel*, a softly effervescent blend of six grape varieties fermented together. There were also bottles of Vinu Jancu, made from la crescent fermented on the skins in an open vat in the style of *vin jaune* from the Jura, and Damejeanne, the Vermont red made with marquette.

Each wine spoke in a different way to the vintage, vineyard, and grapes from which it had been crafted. They shimmered with ripples of limestone, alpine strawberries, white currants, and green apples. The assembled crew raised their glasses to the soil and the fruit, to the community gathered around the table, and to the vigneronne who had a vision for what Vermont wine could be. M

TRAIL RUNNING 101

A chemistry professor and avid trail runner has some advice for those arriving on campus for the first time or after a long absence: lace up your running shoes and indulge in an immersive tour of the Middlebury environs. Here's how. BY JEFF BYERS ■ ILLUSTRATION BY KALEY MCKEAN

We're going to start our run behind the Peterson Family Athletics Complex. Inside, the facility is home to just about every piece of exercise equipment imaginable, but let's save the ellipticals and treadmills for the bone-rattling cold of deep winter and enjoy a run outdoors while we can. So out the back door of the athletics complex we go, heading southeast past the artificial turf of Kohn Field and veering into the woods that border a handful of Middlebury's practice fields; there are usually a few soccer goals stashed here, so the trail entry should be easy to find.

We're hopping on the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM)—the 18-mile loop that encircles the town and, on this stretch, traces an arc around Middlebury's Ralph Myhre Golf Course. The trail is well worn—our national-caliber cross-country team both trains and competes here—and can be challenging, but along this segment that we're traversing, the route is relatively friendly to all types of runners.

After about a mile, we'll approach the first

noteworthy sight on this run. Fair warning: you'll probably smell it before you see it. That whiff of rotting food heralds the presence of the College's composting operation, where our facilities and dining staffs collaborate to turn nearly 400 tons of food waste into compost each year. We'll hustle past this area and begin a short, steep climb that will reveal . . . a lone gravestone? . . . off to our right. There lies the final resting place of a gentleman named William Douglass. A resident of Middlebury during the 18th century, Mr. Douglass survived service in both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, only to die when a tree fell on him soon after he returned home; he was buried where he was felled. (I love to add fun Middlebury trivia questions for extra credit at the end of my General Chemistry tests, and every few years I ask if anyone knows how the person buried on the golf course died, a fact that is indicated on the gravestone.)

We'll continue southward across the ridgeline onto a new section of trail that enables runners to stay well out of the range of errant tee shots flying around the back nine of the golf course, before emerging into the open, where we will be afforded spectacular views of Vermont's Green Mountains to the east. A short run along the old golf course entrance road will bring us to Route 30.

For those who have had enough, a downhill trot back to the athletic facilities completes a nice two-mile run. However, across the road, a more

challenging stretch of trail awaits.

Bidding farewell to some, the rest of us will pick up the TAM again on the other side of the road, entering a section of the trail known as the "Class of '97 Trail," which honors Colin O'Neil '97.5, who passed away in a tragic car accident prior to his graduation.

The narrow, rooted, and usually muddy descent from the ridgeline will challenge us to watch our footwork, but at least the area is not as hazardous as it was two summers ago, when a large—and protective—mama owl was prone to attacking passing runners, in my case drawing blood! (Such are the joys of true trail running.) After less than a mile in the woods, the trail emerges into an open field, where a left turn will lead to a long loop through acres of farm fields that make up some of the great views to the west of the campus. We'll pass through where the "mods"—a cluster of small, prefab homes—once stood (razed recently after 20 years of "temporary" usage), angling northwest until we cross Route 125 and follow a short dirt road to the serenity of the College organic garden (now named the Knoll), one of my favorite places on campus.

And then, the home stretch. We'll continue along a dirt track as it snakes through the fields to the western edge of campus. Bicentennial Hall looms, as do a quintet of dorms— Hadley, Lang, Milliken, Kelly, LaForce—residence halls that are still referred to by some as the "new dorms" even though some have been around for nearly 50 years and there are far more recently constructed dorms on campus now. As we approach the road, we'll jog through a field of large, standing solar panels, a relatively recent addition to the landscape; on sunny days, they look quite lovely, reflecting the blue sky.

We'll then cross Route 125 again, ascend a hill, and turn right, winding our way through the wooded environs of the Ridgeline Residence Complex. We'll be tracking south again, slipping through the local graveyard and heading back toward the athletics complex. The cemetery holds many of the town's fathers—Painter, Brainerd, Stewart, Munroe—as well as our final curiosity of the trail run: the gravestone of an Egyptian mummy buried in the otherwise Christian cemetery. Henry Sheldon, the original proprietor of the downtown Sheldon Museum, purchased the

mummy of a very young Egyptian prince, but realized that it was not in good enough condition to put on display, and instead had it buried, with a very curious gravestone, after many years in storage. Finally, we'll cross over Route 30, approaching the entrance to the athletics complex and coming to the end of a five-mile run—and the syllabus for Trail Running 101. M

Jeff Byers has taught chemistry at Middlebury for more than 30 years, a time when he has also traversed on foot the various trails that wind their way through Addison County. For the past nine years, he has authored the blog The Middlebury Trailrunner, *which can be found at sites.middlebury.edu/trailrunner.*

The Value of Failure

That word—failure—prompts such a negative reaction, doesn't it? After all, nobody got to Middlebury by failing. But without it, without failure, we could not be our best selves. ¶ Eleven essayists explain. ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE HEADS OF STATE

The Struggle

BY MOLLY COSTANZA-ROBINSON
Biochemistry and Environmental Studies Professor

I MARVEL AT THE "STAIRS OF DEATH" as I do the other engineering feats of Machu Picchu. The stairs are slabs of cantilevered granite that must be anchored deep within the stone block wall, but they appear to float on hundreds of feet of gaping freefall above the valley floor. Water courses sculpted in stone are banked precisely to contain the flow of the local spring. And like an iceberg, the marvels we can see aboveground are only a fraction of the achievement, most of which lies unseen below, humbly securing footings and draining water.

The beauty of science lies partly in the discovery itself, in bringing some small aspect of how the world works into focus. But there's beauty in another part of discovery: the messy, human, and failure-littered part of how it came to be. The part where the Stairs of Death must have failed miserably in numerous and novel ways before the Inca found a way to make them hold fast. The part where granite slabs careened off the cliff, where anchoring systems pulled from the wall, where the wheels turned in the mind of the master engineer responding to each failure. I smile to imagine it all, because in considerably less grand ways, I've been there. All scientists have. Suppressing feelings of inadequacy, feeling ignorant but grasping anyway because you're curious, you might be onto something. Because it feels important. In science, failing reflects your bravery in asking hard questions, your daring to venture into the unknown, and ultimately, your belonging in a community that sees beauty in the struggle.

Molly Costanza-Robinson has taught at Middlebury since 2005.

Live from New York . . . Nah, Just Kidding

BY LUCAS KAVNER '06
Actor, Writer, Comic

TO EMBARK ON A CAREER IN SHOW BUSINESS is to embark on a career of comically constant failure. The moment you leave college and call yourself a writer or an actor or a dancer or a mime or a dance-mime, you're saying to yourself and the world, "Ninety-nine percent of the time this will not work, but I am going to proceed anyway because I am generally insane." To be asked to remember a significant failure when you are constantly failing professionally is like asking a basketball player to remember a time they missed a shot. So unless you're a basketball player who makes every single shot you have ever taken (I commend you, future LeBron), the failure thing is going to take up most of your time.

Early in my career I met an older actor who would always say, "Failure is the game, man." The first time I heard him say it I thought, "Wow, sounds like a shitty game." The second time I heard it I thought, "Wow, this guy is really overusing his catchphrase." But now, years later, I think I know what he meant.

Like many other weird kids with a thing for comedy, I had a dream to be on *Saturday Night Live*. I loved "Wayne's World" and Will Ferrell and the way Don Pardo said the words "musical guest" in the opening credits, stressing the "MU" part—"MYEW-sical guest." I had a fantasy of sitting in the audience during the *SNL* dress rehearsal, watching Paul McCartney practice his set for the show, then after he was done I would walk up to him and say, "Nice set, Paul," and he would nod and walk away. For some reason, he completely ignored me in my fantasy.

Anyway, I never really thought I'd get the chance to achieve that dream; it was one of those things you sort of tuck away, never expecting it to really happen. But about five years into performing improv comedy a million times a week in New York City, I was asked to make an audition tape for the show. I strung together a video of myself performing characters in front of a blank wall and sent it in. A few weeks later I was asked to make another tape, then about five or six more after that. I remember falling asleep next to my now-wife every night that summer, my Summer of Tapes, as one might call it if one were so inclined, constantly trying out new characters on her. "A Jewish gigolo. Like a *Jewgolo.* Is that funny? Are you asleep?"

After a few months of this back-and-forth I got word that I'd made it to the final round of the process, which meant I would perform my audition for all the producers and writers on the legendary *SNL* stage. I'll never forget taking the elevator up to the studio, clutching my tote bag of wigs and props, being led to what I was told was Bill Murray's old dressing room, where I drank too much coffee and heard the guy in the room next to me literally hyperventilating as he struggled to remember how to do a French accent. Finally it was my turn. I walked what felt like a mile to the stage and performed five minutes of characters to a surprising smattering of laughter—they never laugh, everyone is told beforehand—and then I walked off. I thought it went as well as it could have. I was happy.

The next day while riding my bike in the city, I got a phone call and pulled off to the side of the road. I was told, very simply, I "wasn't going any further." I remember just sort of nodding and quietly ending the call. Just like that, it was done. Twenty years of a dream over in barely 10 seconds. But then, something strange happened. *I was OK.* Yes, I was bummed, profoundly so, but it wasn't earth-shattering, it didn't knock me off my feet, because at that point I was already so used to this feeling, which may sound depressing but I promise it wasn't.

Later that night I rode my bike over the bridge into Manhattan to perform in a show, knowing I had failed at a dream, but also sure that I would keep going, because what else can you do? Every day you will doubt some aspect of what you're doing, you will question a piece of writing, a performance, a sentence, a thought. "Failure is the game, man." You don't ever win, but I guess the idea is that, over the course of a career, you get to stack those failures like bricks and make a tower that resembles a life spent trying, and one you can be proud of.

Lucas Kavner '06 has authored five plays; written for the New York Times, New York *magazine,* Slate, *and the* New Yorker; *appeared on Comedy Central, VH1, ABC, and Netflix; and costarred in the world premiere of* Ghost Brothers of Darkland County, *a musical written by John Mellencamp and Stephen King.*

The next day, I got a phone call. I was told, very simply, I "wasn't going any further." I remember just sort of nodding and quietly ending the call. Just like that, it was done.

The Process

BY JILLIAN GARBER '09
Software Engineer

EARLY IN MY CAREER AS A SOFTWARE ENGINEER, I often took my time analyzing a problem before I would begin work in earnest. I majored in physics, so I had spent years thinking about problems and working (in a fairly linear path) toward the right answer. That's not to say that I didn't learn about the value of experimentation; it's just that I did not yet fully understand the power of this process, nor how to embrace—and even intentionally seek out—missteps along the way. I was so focused on fine-tuning my analysis that I lost sight of what I was gaining when my analysis and thinking went astray.

I was blind to the beauty of the process, fearful not of failing but of wasting time going down an incorrect path and having nothing to show for my efforts. As a result, I would spend time thinking about a problem from every angle before beginning to build a solution.

I've since discovered that failure is how we learn, how we refine. By analyzing each failure, by understanding how and why it happened, we can figure out when it is likely to happen again and plan for it, work around it, or use it to our advantage. Out of every failure comes a data point, a piece of evidence upon which to base a better hypothesis, and, eventually, a better solution.

Now when I approach a new problem, I am more apt to begin trying to work out a solution when I still have questions about how things work. It is through methodical attempts that I am able to fill in the gaps in my understanding. This form of trial and error is not merely trying things willy-nilly and hoping something sticks; it is experimenting with variables or options systematically with each one aimed at learning about a fundamental piece of the problem. I have found it is the willingness (and sometimes the intent) to fail that gets us to our goal.

I often end up doing this by only solving for the "happy path" first. Rather than trying to think through all the possible ways things could go awry, I solve for the 90 percent case. If I know the primary part of the problem, and understand it well, I can build a solution and then see where it falls down. It is through this discovery that I find the nuance of the problem and then refine the solution.

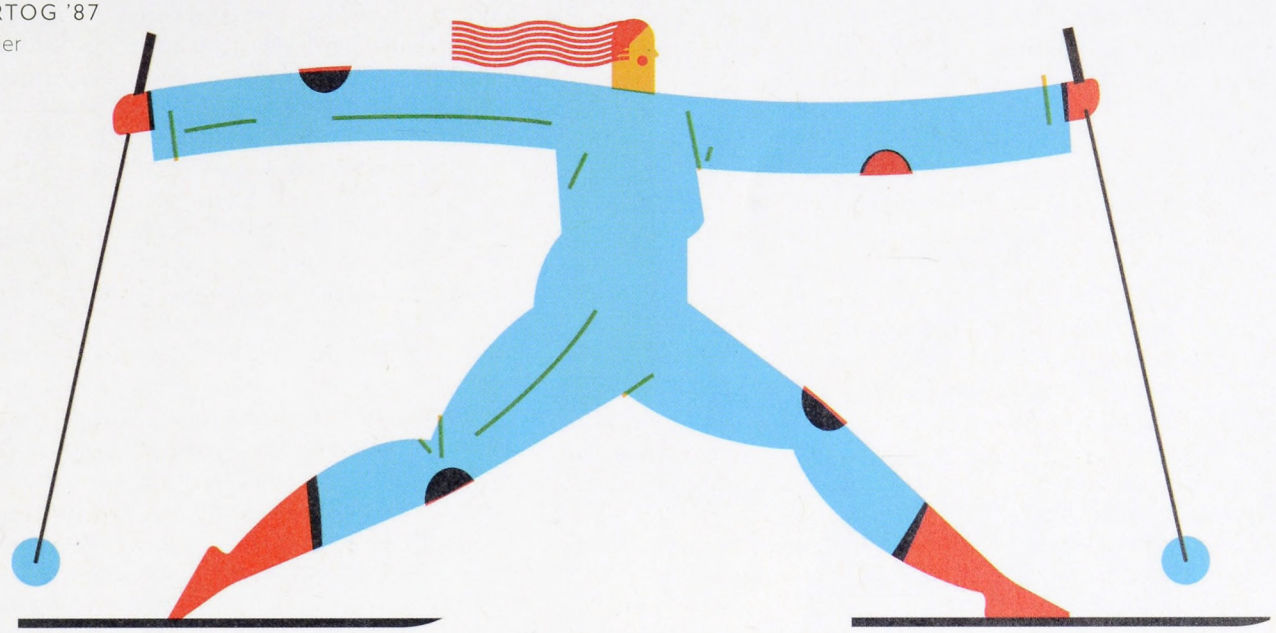
Don't get me wrong; critical thinking and analysis are crucial, but allowing the fear of wasted time or an inefficient solution to prevent you from moving forward is counterproductive. Any idea is good enough to begin exploring its viability. It is through that exploration that you find things you did not previously consider.

In our society we are taught to strive for perfection, to do our best to do everything correctly. After almost 10 years as an engineer, I firmly believe this is to our detriment. *Failure* as a word seems to have such a negative connotation. No one wants to hear "you've failed." It has a feeling of defeat, of shame. Trial and error, on the other hand, is a system, a process, a proven method to achieve success. If you can turn every failure into a gain, a piece of the greater process, then is it really a failure? Or is it merely an unexpected learning experience? Perhaps if we all reframe our "failures" as "trials" or "experimentations," we can remove the negative connotation and learn to find value in the effort.

Jillian Garber '09 is a senior software engineer for Sonos.

Us vs. Them

BY DORCAS DENHARTOG '87
Three-Time Olympic Skier



It was the spring of 1988. In the past year, I'd graduated from Middlebury, made the U.S. Winter Olympic team, and had the best result of a North American Nordic skier at the Calgary Olympics with a 23rd place in the 20km skate race. No one had expected me to make it that far, that quickly; the U.S. team had put me on their P92 development team, to prepare us for the Olympics four years in the future.

Up to that point I'd been coached by Terry Aldrich, a coaching legend at Middlebury, and by the U.S. regional coach, Dick Taylor. Both approached training with positivity and enthusiasm, focusing on the joy of being outside every day. But now that I was at this next level, I decided I needed a coach who would make me work harder. Friends of mine told me of a new coach out in Colorado, one who thought that the U.S. Nordic team was a mess, so he created a rogue club, an "Us against the U.S." team. Trusting my friends and entranced by the idea of training in Colorado, I moved west to live in a dorm and train at altitudes as high as 12,000 feet.

I loved the mountains, the sage, the pasqueflowers. But as the fall progressed, I found myself crying at random moments—after skiing only a kilometer or while waiting for the pizza to be delivered—while counting the days until the end of the big-volume training period.

Finally, November arrived. I was back in New England for the early-season races, and former teammates passed me like I was standing still. One asked me kindly, "Did you lose some weight?" I was adamant that I had not; I'd not stepped on a scale since the spring, but when I did, I realized I'd lost 10 percent of my body weight. I had overtrained, undereaten, and failed to critically examine both the experience and true agenda of my new coach.

I never recovered. Not completely.

Even as I raced on another two Olympic and World Championship teams, I never performed as well as I once had. I was bitter and angry, and I blamed that "us vs. them" coach; I believed he had used me to achieve his own goals.

Over the years, though, I've accepted responsibility for making that choice to change coaches and move west. I had not appreciated the approach of those who had brought out the best in me; instead, I was looking over their shoulders for what I thought was something better.

Now, as a coach of young cross-country skiers and cross-country runners, I draw on that experience every day. I coach like Terry and Dick, coaching the whole person with the goal of helping them find the love of the outdoors, attain independence and self-reliance, and challenge themselves on the trail with their teammates and competitors, not against them.

And at the end of the race, the people around them are there to make them dig deep and find the best in themselves, for themselves. Not for others.

Dorcas DenHartog '87 competed in the 1988, 1992, and 1994 Olympics. She now coaches high school cross-country in New Hampshire.

Failing Time

BY CHRISTAL BROWN
Associate Professor of Dance

So I'm a Scorpio, and that could mean many things to many people. Connotations, assumptions, and labels are often misrepresentative of the people we really are. A comprehensive view of a person can't be foretold by an astrological sign.

Right.

Well, I'm also born on the 14th day of the month, and if you are into numerology (1+4=5) the number five is linked to the planet Mercury; the messenger with the quick feet.

I don't live my life by astrology or numerology, but I am aware of who these methodologies say I am.

I am fast.

In high school this was most evident in my time as a local track star. But throughout my adult life, I have noticed that I think fast, plan fast, act quickly—and generally have a very distorted view of time.

0 for 37

BY STEPHEN KIERNAN '82
Novelist

In the spring of 1995 I attended a remarkable graduation. It took place at Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown, New York—a facility that teaches people with visual impairments how to put down their canes and learn to navigate with the aid of a dog. Each graduate spoke about the autonomy, mobility, and pride that a guide dog provided. The final graduate, a fierce-browed woman from Louisiana, spontaneously broke into song, and the whole crowd joined in.

I thought: This is a novel. Over the following year, I read about blindness, I interviewed dog trainers and breeders, I walked the streets blindfolded holding the arm of a woman who was led by her dog. Then I began to write.

It was not an easy time to embark. I had two sons under the age of three. I had a full-time job. But the story had a hold on me. I worked in the mornings, before the household awoke. I holed away in a rented cabin over long weekends. I spent a few weeks at the Yaddo artists' colony but came home because it taxed my family too much. I remember mornings giving my infant son a bottle while he hung in a sling around my shoulders and I typed with my free hand.

When I finished *Moonlight Sonata*, there were encouraging signs: I landed an agent. I was named a finalist in a first-novel contest. Friends who read the manuscript cried at the right moments.

Then began the failure. I took the first few rejections in stride, as did my agent. We're starting at the top, she said, don't worry. But five rejections became 15. Then 25. Each submission took weeks or even months; always the answer was no.

In the end, *Moonlight Sonata* received 37 rejections. It's an easy number to remember, because that's how many commercial publishers there were in America at the time. They all said no.

As the last answer came in, I happened to be moving books onto a new bookshelf and came across *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Marie Rilke. That slim volume was a gift, many years before, from now-deceased classmate Katy McGiff '82. On a page with a corner folded over, I read this: "Ask yourself in your deepest heart if you must write. . . . If the answer is yes, then build your life according to that necessity."

I was inspired enough that I did the least logical thing. I wrote another book, *What We Could Have Had.* It was never published. Neither was *The Wall of Silver.* Nor *Leaving the Country of My Birth.* All of them were a strain to write because of life's ordinary demands. All of them were rejected everywhere.

Also? Every one of those books taught me that publication was not the reward; the writing of them was. Each of those books educated me in what a novel was, and how to write one people might want to read. All of them schooled me in the reality that failure—whether a publisher's rejection or simply a bad day of work—is a larger part of making art than success is.

These lessons have been my sustenance. My sixth book will be out soon. I won't be able to believe it until I hold the hard cover in my hands.

Stephen Kiernan's sixth book—and fourth novel—will be published in 2019.

In almost 40 years, I have lived about seven lives and hardly said no to anything. I have traveled to many countries, and I can't tell you anything specific about most of them. No matter what methodology I use to rationalize my navigation of time, I realize I have failed at taking time with people, possibilities, and pursuits of deeper meaning.

As I approach my 40th birthday, I am inspired to course correct this failure not by slowing down but by sinking in and considering the time it may take to complete a vision rather than the time I have to offer the result. I will count the cost of my yes prior to giving it as a commitment of my time, energy, and talent.

I will no doubt fail to meet my own expectations of capacity and interests, but in my failure I hope to find the one thing that changes my concept of time.

Christal Brown is chair of the Dance Department at Middlebury and the faculty director of MiddCORE.

There and Back Again

BY DAVID GOSSENS '19
English and American Literatures Major

Let's be honest—we all want to succeed at everything we do. Unfortunately, life isn't so simple that if we all adopt growth mindsets we'll ultimately realize all of our dreams.

Success, I believe, relies upon opportunity and being ready to use it. Yet opportunities are not open-ended—and they can be cruelly selective, moving targets with varying degrees of attainability. Sure, it's nice to encourage people to try new things and be open to failure in order to learn that you can get back up and try again.

But the hard truth is that a lot of the time, once the target has moved past, it won't be back. This raises the stakes for many situations, and even means that failure, sometimes, is truly the end of the endeavor.

I don't remember what I said, but whatever it was, she must have sensed that the stress was mounting.

The only redeeming quality of failure is that you *can* learn from your mistakes; eventually, one learns to live with failure itself. That sounds overwhelmingly negative, I know, but to be okay with failing is one of the central tenets of a growth mindset. The second is to begin to believe you can succeed.

When I was a child—and up until my early teens—I loved sports, but I was a benchwarmer. When I did get on the court or field (basketball and soccer were my organized sports of choice), I learned that if I were to contribute at all, it was on the defensive end. Defense was easier. You moved your arms and legs and stayed in front of the opponent. I actually became a pretty good defender—at my peak I earned the nickname "Stonewall"—but on offense I felt inept; I couldn't pass the ball quickly enough for fear of making a mistake. My style of play was simple: receive ball, freeze, look for open teammate, resume defense.

Looking back on that time, I think this fear was largely self-imposed, but not entirely. I had coaches who wanted to win so badly that, yeah, I felt immense pressure not to screw up. And I had peers, friends even, who could be withering in their criticism.

Eventually I gave up on organized sports, my love of the games eclipsed by my ever-tightening fear of failing, of being the object of derision. And, to be honest, I hadn't given any of this much thought until a couple of years ago when some Midd classmates casually asked if I wanted to go to the gym to play some hoops. *No*, I initially thought. *I don't do that. I can't do that. I'm not good enough.*

But I went, and I discovered that without the pressure of performing in front of teammates, without worrying about ruining the game . . . I enjoyed it. And I went back. Again. And again.

At first I thought I had discovered how to be gritty, how to persevere. I guess there's some truth in that, but the greater lesson I learned is that failure, at least in this realm, does not have to portend doom. As a nine-year-old kid on the basketball team, all those missed shots were just a reinforcement of what I already believed: that I didn't belong. Now, the missed shots tell me I'm doing something wrong. So, I keep missing until I make it, and once I do, I try again, just to taste that feeling again.

David Gossens '19 writes for the Middlebury Campus. *He'll graduate in the spring.*

To Teach

BY JOHN ELDER
College Professor Emeritus

In the fall of 1973 I arrived 15 minutes early for my very first discussion class at Middlebury College. This offered me a chance to arrange the tablet-chairs in Munroe Hall 321 in a circle and gather my wits before the 18 students listed on the roster arrived.

After graduating from Pomona College I'd pursued a PhD in English at Yale. My goal in doing so was to find a position teaching at another fine liberal arts college. In Middlebury, which I'd visited a couple of times with a grad school friend who was an alumnus, I'd now found my dream job. The excitement about this initial meeting with students was intensified for me by the strong teaching ethic I'd encountered in colleagues here. In the corridors of Munroe as well as in preparatory department meetings, they were buzzing about the readings, paper assignments, and thematic frameworks of their own courses. I hoped to achieve and manifest a similar standard of commitment.

I had also met some fine teachers at Yale, especially my generous dissertation advisor, Charles Feidelson. But I realized now that we graduate students had never actually received any advice about how to *teach*. When we did lead discussion sections in large-enrollment courses, each of them was thoroughly framed by and related to the instructors' previous two lectures. The conversations in Munroe, to which I listened with mounting anxiety, never seemed to touch on practical issues of pedagogy.

I ended up preparing for this class on the first Tuesday of the term by drawing up a carefully shaped sequence of two dozen questions that were intended to lead us into the heart of the Hawthorne story at the top of our syllabus. The discussion I was imagining would engage students in the tale's main stylistic points and themes, as well as help them get a better sense of Hawthorne's sly voice. My only concern was that we might not have time to explore all these terrific questions.

I needn't have worried. Responses to my questions, when forthcoming at all, were often brief to the point of monosyllabic, and students rarely followed up on one another's comments. Half an hour into this 75-minute class, I was, to quote a certain vice-presidential candidate in a memorable televised debate, "out of ammo." I struggled to find something else to say or ask before finally falling mute. I felt devastated to have flopped so dismally at the outset of my teaching. Once the class and I had both subsided into total silence, my distress was such that I couldn't trust myself to speak again.

The formidable Harris tweed coat I had bought the previous week at Farrell's in downtown Middlebury sat much more stiffly on me than it would after I had taught in it for 37 years. Corduroy jeans and some cowboy boots I'd brought along from California were the other main features of my ensemble that day. Those boots gleamed dully in the fluorescent lights overhead as I gazed down, brokenhearted, at the linoleum floor in Munroe. The students were as immobile and quiet as I, and the remaining minutes limped painfully on until we could all finally retreat from this catastrophe.

The following Thursday's class meeting was a revelation. Every student seemed prepared not only to participate vigorously but in fact to frame and teach the class in its entirety. Another Hawthorne story was on the syllabus, but first they had a few things to add about the assignment from Tuesday. Aristotle identifies pity and terror as being tragedy's two main effects on an audience. The students' pity (for me) and terror (for themselves) marvelously intensified our conversation that morning. Beyond their evident compassion for a clueless young professor, the contrast between these two sessions also showed me the value of a much more tentative, open-ended, and trusting approach to facilitating a discussion. Over my remaining 37 years of teaching at Middlebury, this meeting's lively and surprising hubbub of discovery, in which the teacher was included as a participant, remained my criterion.

A related insight offered by this unforgettable first week of teaching was that a dynamic yet also coherent class discussion required practice

"I'd Prefer Not"

BY LEAH FESSLER '15
Journalist

These days, when I think about failure, I think about a quote from my favorite Herman Melville story, "Bartleby, the Scrivener." First published in 1853, the story concerns Bartleby, a law clerk who's been hired by a Wall Street lawyer. At first, he works really hard. He crushes it, as Silicon Valley evangelists would say.

Then, suddenly, Bartleby refuses to do anything he's asked to. He won't even make a copy. Instead, he simply replies, "I would prefer not to." Bartleby gets moved to a new office, then to prison, where he dies.

Bartleby is a grim bastard. In his defiance, apparently unconcerned with impressing his fancy boss, he's every high-achieving Middlebury alum's worst nightmare.

He's also the alter ego I've aspired to since reading the story at age 15. Desperate to get an A on my honors English essay, I clearly didn't get the point of Melville's antiestablishmentarianism. And yet, the story is seared in my memory. Throughout my summa cum laude education, hedge fund job, and three years becoming an award-winning journalist, I've repeatedly asked myself: What if I just said *no*? What if I just *stopped?*

Nah, I reply, my success addiction catching me. I rarely (if ever) slow down.

Until recently. Jogging in Prospect Park one steamy August morning, I felt my body depleting. I'd been running for 10 minutes but was already exhausted. I'd been working all hours to advance a gender-equality project I had created at the publication I write for. Part-time, I'd been scheduling as many networking chats as possible, plotting my next career move. I'd also been caring for my sick pug and sick grandparents while riding the waves of an emotional breakup and new romance. Plus it was summer, and I'm 25, so I was trying to have some "fun."

Needless to say, at six a.m. that Wednesday, I didn't need to be running. My body was saying no.

But that nagging urge—to do more, and *be* more—kept boiling.

You need to stay fit, it told me. *Your jeans are getting tight.*

Exercising is self-care, it self-corrected.

This push-and-pull consumed my thoughts until an old man with a gray beard nearly ran me over. In Prospect Park, where I run, everyone circulates in the same direction, a spandex-clad herd fueled by one another's productivity.

The bearded man didn't give a shit. He was running in the opposite direction at a swift pace, weaving through runners who looked half his age. I didn't see him because (#Millennial) I was looking at my phone, searching for some beats to keep me jogging.

"WAKE UP," he shouted, his baritone cutting through my music.

I looked up, just quickly enough to catch a glimpse of his T-shirt. It read, in bold white letters, "I'd prefer not to."

While a beautiful coincidence for sure, this incident didn't tectonically shift my approach to work, relationships, and success. That's not how life works.

It did, however, wake me up.

In 2018, life's treadmill only seems to get faster. Despite my immense privilege, educational success, and professional accomplishments, I've been trained to believe that doing "enough" is bad, and "slowing down" means failure. As a woman, if you're not exceeding expectations, you're falling behind. And even if you *are* exceeding expectations, you can still be disparaged, abused, and ignored, as the #MeToo movement proves. For women of color and LGBTQ people, this injustice only intensifies.

But running faster doesn't give you more energy, as I've repeatedly learned in the four years since graduating. It doesn't make you happier, either. Because when your motivation is fear of failure—as demarcated by standards you didn't set, and goalposts you'll always move—success of any form—a quiet Sunday morning, a mile run unbridled, or even a big promotion—becomes ephemeral.

Failure, I've come to learn, is to be overwhelmed, unhappy, and unfulfilled. Which means that success, quite simply, means peace. To achieve peace, we don't need to step off the treadmill. But we do need to slow it down. To leave situations, jobs, and relationships that cause us pain, or feel too heavy. To do *less.*

In making like Bartleby and occasionally stating, "I'd prefer not," we do no spite to ourselves, or others—quite the opposite. In doing less, we preserve energy for what matters, a measure we can only set for ourselves.

I stopped running that day, after the old man nearly knocked me out. *Thank you*, I whispered to him, and myself.

Leah Fessler '15 writes for Quartz, *where she created the blockbuster multimedia project "How We'll Win," which focuses on the fight for gender equality in the workplace.*

and self-awareness by all participants. Our first, harrowing class, beyond galvanizing the attention of everyone in that room, comically modeled the need to reflect on and discuss what worked or failed following every class meeting. Through responding directly and creatively to such experiences, we could continue evolving from a collection of detached individuals into an authentic community of learners.

John Elder taught at Middlebury, including at the Bread Loaf School of English, for nearly 40 years.

"What Am I Supposed to Do?"

BY WILL MCDONOUGH '07
Secondary School Teacher

I STILL RECALL THE FIRST TIME someone gave me permission to fail, to admit that I couldn't do it all.

It was an early spring day in 2006, my junior year at Middlebury. I had just sprinted across campus to catch the bus to a track meet at Williams. I'd been under significant stress in all areas of my life: socially, academically, and athletically. Like many of my classmates, I felt that doing anything less than my best was a failure.

I wanted to be the perfect boyfriend, the perfect student, the perfect athlete. I craved affirmation from everyone with whom I interacted. I didn't believe I was enough unless I was great.

As I approached the bus, I saw assistant track coach Nicole Wilkerson.

"How's it going, McDonough?"

I don't remember what I said, but whatever it was, she must have sensed that the stress was mounting. I was crumbling under the pressure to be a good boyfriend and to meet the lofty expectations I had for myself as a recently declared history major, and I had failed to break four minutes in the 1,500-meter event, achieving a "failing" time of 4:00.84 the week prior.

And then she told me I couldn't get on the bus.

I couldn't believe it. I *had* to go. It was Williams. It was my weekend to break four minutes. My team depended on me. Did she think I was too weak? That I couldn't handle it?

I protested, told her she was wrong, declared that I had to go.

But then, on the brink of tears, I conceded.

"So what am I supposed to do?"

"Go for a walk," she said. "Watch the sunset. Relax. Do whatever you have to do for *you*. Take care of yourself. You can't be the best of anything if you can't care for yourself."

That afternoon I cried tears of overwhelming exhaustion and relief as I walked the Trail Around Middlebury.

For three years, it felt like I hadn't rested. I hadn't hit pause. I was so out of touch with myself that I had no idea what I needed. I had made innumerable mistakes, but I still didn't think I would recover if I was dumped, if I failed a history test, or if I couldn't run fast.

I thought I'd be letting everyone down.

But at this moment, in an era before the mental health of college students had been pushed to the forefront of conversations in higher ed, I was confronting what it meant to be weak and vulnerable but simultaneously safe.

Twelve years later, I'm an eighth grade teacher, and I'm also a dad to three amazing little kids. In each of these settings, the young people with whom I interact need to be shown grace for their missteps. But most importantly, they need help having grace for themselves.

And the best way I've found to help them take care of themselves is to share that message I received that morning at the bus to Williamstown.

"You are enough."

Sadly, I don't think we're ever out of the dark. I still struggle to believe that my worth is not the result of my performance. Now, though, as life humbles me more than ever, I try to use my failures and missteps to model imperfection and grace for both my students and my own children—as we all attempt to be the best versions of ourselves.

Will McDonough '07 is a humanities teacher at New Canaan Country School.

The First Time

BY DAN O'BRIEN '96
Poet and Playwright

THIS PAST SUMMER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE I was feeling nostalgic for I don't know what. Of course this was where I had first come to know my wife's childhood. Where her parents had sat across from me at the country club and asked, "What have you got against capitalism?" Where after 10 years together, striving in our respective artistic careers, my wife and I had attended our engagement party in August just after my play had been panned in the *New York Times*.

Everybody had looked at me like I had accidentally killed a child. All I had ever wanted was to be a writer—that's why I'd gone to Middlebury, where I'd fallen love with Jessica, and she loved me, I assumed, because of my words. Writing was how I believed I could right the wrongs of my parents, how they'd been abused and how they in turn abused us.

My parents had brought a dessert wine from Virginia. My usually logorrheic mother had huddled in a corner. My taciturn father had chatted aggressively with my fiancée's family's friends and neighbors as if trying to prove something. This place must have reminded him of his uncle's lake house in the Catskills where he'd felt happy hunting and fishing as a boy. When his Uncle Marv died, my father's father, a plumber who'd failed at opening and running a plumbing supply store in Scarsdale, New York, couldn't buy it. And my father set out alone in the same town with his wife's family's money to be a corporation-of-one and failed. And he lived on that same money pretending to work. And his kids didn't talk to him anymore and he didn't care. He was up here in New Hampshire because he had to be, where he had to see my fiancée's father, the corporate success with this lake-adjacent woodland house, the prestige cars, friends, and children who loved him. No wonder my father—and my mother, and most of my siblings—refused to come to our wedding here the following year.

For a long time, I also stayed away. I had success with my writing. We had a daughter. Then my wife got cancer, and six months later I did too. A little over a year ago we came back here for the first time since, feeling timorous, almost embarrassed, and now this past summer again too. What was I feeling then? Not nostalgia. Something like pride. As I watched our daughter in the lake suddenly swimming for the first time.

Dan O'Brien's play The House in Scarsdale *was recently named PEN America's 2018 award-winner for drama.*

BY KEVIN CHARLES FLEMING '09
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNIE O'NEILL

Moriel Rothman-Zecher Has Something to Say

The American-Israeli poet, writer, and activist now has a critically acclaimed novel to his name. And like much of his prior work, his fiction is a reflection of his DNA and the life he has lived.

Just before he was sent to prison, Moriel Rothman '11 got an unexpected Facebook message. It was from Kayla Zecher, a 20-something law student who, like Mori, lived in Jerusalem and ran in left-wing activist circles. Kayla didn't know Mori well, but she knew of him. Moriel is an unusual name, no less so in Israel, where he was born, than in the United States, where he was raised. Plus, on some level, it seemed like everyone in Jerusalem knew Mori. Kayla had heard Mori was going to jail for refusing to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). She'd had friends, hardcore activists—more hardcore than Mori, to be honest—who'd been thrown in prison for months, even years. She didn't want to risk losing track of him. Let me know if you need anything, she messaged him.

Mori thought it was a strange offer. He had a lawyer. Then it occurred to him that maybe Kayla just wanted him to have her number. He wrote it down, in his neat hand, on the back leaf of a collection of Tolstoy stories.

It was the fall of 2012, and Mori was 23. He thought it would be kind of romantic, reading Tolstoy in prison. It turned out to be a miserable idea: way too bleak. James Patterson would have been a better choice, or a spy novel—something less depressing. He wouldn't make that mistake again.

Mori is now 29, no longer in prison, and has a novel of his own, *Sadness Is a White Bird*, which was published this past winter. Part love story, part Bildungsroman, part meditation on the instantaneity of violence, it is an impressive first work of fiction. Its characters slip in and out of four languages as they cross borders, decades, and boundaries. Pulitzer Prize–winning author Michael Chabon called it "nuanced, sharp, and beautifully written." Its pages betray an urgent, prodigious talent.

Mori is a gentle soul, warm even to strangers, whom he greets like friends. An energetic conversationalist, he is opinionated but thoughtful, partial to long lunches and coffee on the couch, where he does not fiddle with his phone. His hair, when he wears it long, is wild and unruly, somewhere between revolutionary and street-corner poet. His ears are a bit elfin. Eyes feature prominently in his work, and it's easy to see why: his own are lively and bright, raindrop blue, penetrating more than watchful, the kind you fall in love with from across the room at a party. He doesn't shy away from the naked intimacy of holding his listener's gaze. Indeed, he seems to relish it.

Mori became a novelist in the same way he became an ultrarunner, and before that an activist: slowly, and then all at once. He doesn't mind doing hard things—torturous things, really—so long as they're things he chooses. He feels the same way about rules. He likes following them, unless they're rules he disagrees with, in which case he takes not a little delight in breaking them.

It was something of an accident, the novel. In the fall of 2015, Mori was living in Jerusalem, working for a nonprofit and organizing against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories. He was chiseling away at a proposal for a poetry-slash-memoir thing, but the material wasn't terribly promising. He felt uninspired, even a little bored. On Yom Kippur, while fasting, he had a revelation, perhaps divinely inspired, or perhaps simply the consequence of being very, very hungry: he was writing the wrong book. After years of blogging, protesting, poem slamming, and otherwise divining the question—the problem, the future—of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, he would try his hand at fiction.

Mori sat down, and in 10 weeks, 100,000 words tumbled out of his brain and onto the page. He recognizes this is neither common nor likely to happen again in his career. It's like the story had been boiling inside of him, waiting to spill over.

Abandoning nonfiction was a fortuitous decision, in part because Mori doesn't particularly like nonfiction. He doesn't care if this makes him unfashionable—a philistine, even—because it happens to be true. "I didn't want to write something I wouldn't read."

Mori reads fiction obsessively, with a kind of self-imposed discipline that invites both admiration and, frankly, envy. In the back of his journal, opposite a color-coded chart where he tracks his weekly running mileage, is a list of all the books he's read recently. At the moment, he's working his way through the Pulitzer Prize winners. He adored *Gilead* (Marilynne Robinson, 2005) and *The Underground Railroad* (Colson Whitehead, 2017). He had a harder time getting into *The Shipping News* (Annie Proulx, 1994). He reads close to 50 novels a year, after which he shelves them in his library. He's happy to lend books to friends, and even happier when they don't come back.

Drafting a novel required Mori to forget most of what he knew about writing. The journalist's cardinal rules are often the novelist's laziest crutches. He was accustomed to writing op-eds for American newspapers, where the whole point was to be didactic, even pedantic. To tell, not show. To insist that readers agree. "The luxury of fiction, the privilege of fiction, is to let the reader decide for themself."

His politics hadn't changed, but his novel would be a work of art, not activism. "In art, multiple versions of truth don't need to cancel each other out. In activism, they do." Plus, a memoir would require him to write about what did happen, whereas a novel would free him to write about what might have happened, but didn't.

That first draft, though—yikes. He'd be embarrassed to let anyone read it now. Tonal issues. Unimaginative structure. Preachy bits that bordered

In September, the National Book Foundation awarded Mori one of its "5 under 35" prizes; previous honorees include Téa Obreht and Karen Russell.

on polemical. "I sent it to the agent, and she wrote back, 'There's some really beautiful parts here. If you can rewrite the whole thing, I think we can work with it.'" She attached a long list of helpful suggestions, but Mori was gripped. He thought, *If I can start anywhere, where do I start? If my characters can do anything, what should they do?* "It was a paralysis of infinite possibilities."

A few days later, Mori was sitting in a café, his Inner Critic yammering away. Riffing aloud to his coffee date, he imagined a book that began with his teenage protagonist, Jonathan, penning a letter to his friend: "Oh, Laith. I don't know shit about flowers. I was a soldier who dreamed of her breasts in evening blossom, though."

It was an odd line. Poetic, though. *That could do*, he thought.

So opens Moriel Rothman-Zecher's *Sadness Is a White Bird*. Set largely between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, the book is about Israel-Palestine in the way *The Things They Carried* is about Vietnam, which is to say, completely and not at all. Mostly, it is a celebration and lamentation of youth. Reading it is to be reminded of the intoxicating cocktail of identity, ideology, and sexuality that is teenagehood—a drink so potent it's incredible anyone survives, and whose hangover is, frankly, adulthood. The threat of violence and the thrill of Eros lurk in the margins of every page.

Jonathan is an earnest, searching young man. He has returned to his native land, on the cusp of 18, to serve in the Israel Defense Forces, but the novel's first page finds him sitting in a military brig for something he may—or may not—have done on the front lines. The fog of war is thick. A boyhood spent dreaming of action has done little to prepare him for its realities.

Mori and Kayla's daughter was born in April. Her name, Nahar, means "river" in both Hebrew and Arabic.

"I was sick of being People of the Word," he muses. "I wanted to be People of the Sword." Caught between identities and beliefs, Jonathan yearns for a truth that is singular, stable, unyielding. Peddling one such truth is his grandfather, a warrior-boned Salonican Jew who escaped the Nazis' wartime decimation of Thessaloniki's thriving Jewish community, settled in Haifa, and captained an elite underground strike force in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. "There are only two sides," he tells Jonathan. "Us and everyone else."

Driving the novel are the heady days of summer that precede Jonathan's enlistment, and his ever-shifting constellation of friendships and romantic entanglements. Love is a drag at that age, but so is living with your parents. He would happily spend the summer with his high school friends smoking pot, stealing kisses, and debating the badass-ness of various IDF combat units. It's only the unexpected acquaintance of two Palestinian citizens of Israel—Laith and Nimreen, twins—that complicates Jonathan's understanding of his, and their, homeland. Love ensues, then politics, then tragedy.

Even at its conclusion, *Sadness* refuses the reader resolution. She will have to decide for herself.

Mori is, like his protagonist, a binational Jew. His peregrinations have shaped him no less than his faith. Born in Jerusalem and raised there until he was five, Mori spent his adolescence in Yellow Springs, Ohio, before his family—like Jonathan's—returned to Israel for his final year of high school. Mori adored growing up in Yellow Springs. Home to Antioch College, a bastion of progressive education, the town has a funky progressive energy. The Jewish community in Yellow Springs is small, without a synagogue, but even so the Rothmans strictly observed Shabbat. Mori's love of reading was born, in part, of Saturdays spent without a Gameboy, car, or phone. Friends would come over to the house, and they'd spend hours playing in the woods that bordered the college. Even as a rebellious teen, he liked the stricture of religious rules; when he smoked pot on the Sabbath, his friends would always light the joint.

Mori thought he might do a year at Middlebury before returning to Israel to begin his compulsory military service. "Every society has its God. In the United States, it's money. In Israel, it's the army. You can love the prime minister or hate the prime minister. You can be for the occupation or against the occupation. But the one thing you don't question is whether you serve in the military. Everyone serves in the military."

But then, as happens: a girl. The IDF would have to wait. Returning to Middlebury for his sophomore and junior years, he continued to study Arabic, dove headlong into a political science major, and got involved with J Street, a liberal advocacy group that calls itself "the home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans." By his senior year, he was the organization's national student president. (The girlfriend didn't last.)

Friends from that time recall Mori's sheer kinetic energy; he was confident, clever, brazen. He took vows of silence, went dancing, climbed trees, interrogated ideas. He zipped around campus on a longboard,

The awakening that began during his summers in Deir al-Asad became a daily consciousness. "I didn't understand the daily machinations of the occupation. I didn't know about house demolitions. I didn't know about raids done in order to terrorize the population. I didn't know about land being confiscated. I didn't know what military rule looked like."

occasionally naked. Every adventure in his company involved a detour. And, during this time, his faith deepened. He began to pray daily, wear a *kippah*, and, with two friends, study Torah. At the same time, away from Israel, his discomfort with the occupation took on a new urgency. One afternoon, a friend encountered him walking past Ross Dining Hall, clutching a copy of Edward Said's *The Question of Palestine*. Mori's brow was furrowed; he looked gravely concerned. Finally he blurted out, "But what if he's right?"

Like Jonathan in *Sadness*, Mori entered adulthood with a vague opposition to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories. "I was a friendly liberal kid. I thought the occupation was bad, I thought it was unfair, but I thought both sides should change some things." Mostly, though, the whole thing felt disconnected from his life as an Israeli citizen.

Two college summers spent in Deir al-Asad, a Palestinian Arab village inside Israel, changed that. There, teaching English, practicing Arabic, and living alongside Palestinians, he witnessed the reality of a very different Israel than the one he had been born into.

In a neighboring village, Mori lived with the mayor's brother, a Palestinian calligraphist who'd learned his craft from an Egyptian Jew and saw a kind of cosmic righteousness in opening his home to a member of the other tribe. Young Israelis who speak Arabic are rare—many that do learn it in the army—and Jewish college kids do not, as a rule, spend their summers living in Palestinian villages. With his burgeoning language skills, and by simply changing his dress, Mori could pass for something other than an Israeli Jew.

"This place is suffocating," Laith tells Jonathan early in their friendship. "Everything here is too black and white, you know? Either you're this or you're that. You're a Jew or you're an Arab. You're a man or a girl. A hero or a traitor. There's no slippery here."

In Deir al-Asad, unlike many places in Israel, Mori's identity could be slippery. After years of looking in on Palestine from the outside, he was, for the first time, looking out at Israel from within.

Mori graduated from Middlebury and moved back to Jerusalem on a social justice fellowship. He grew his grassroots organizing skills and launched a current events blog that interpreted the region for an English-speaking audience. The awakening that began during his summers in Deir al-Asad became a daily consciousness.

"I didn't understand the daily machinations of the occupation. I didn't know about house demolitions. I didn't know about raids done in order to terrorize the population. I didn't know about land being confiscated. I didn't know what military rule looked like." It was around this time that Mori stopped thinking of the Israeli occupation as a tragedy. "Tragic is an earthquake, a hurricane. It's inevitable." An occupation was a human endeavor, with human actors. No one was absolved of responsibility.

One problem, he believed, was that young Israelis rarely hear what life in the army is like after basic training.

"No one talks about what you do. What we talked about in high school was what color beret was the coolest and how many push-ups you can do and how fast you need to run to get into a certain unit. No one's, like, 'Then you're going to be stationed in Hebron, guarding a corps of 750 fanatical Jewish settlers in the middle of a Palestinian city of 200,000 people, basically segregating the roads and arresting—and possibly even shooting—people when they violate your orders.'"

In October 2012, Mori posted an essay titled "Why I Refuse" to his blog. (The *New York Times* later published a version of the piece.) In its passages he cited, variously, the Book of Genesis, David Foster Wallace, and the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber. Several days later, he reported to an IDF induction base in Tel Aviv, where, in an act of political theater, he formally announced his refusal to serve in the Israeli army. He spent 10 days in Military Prison No. 6, after which he was given another chance to enlist. He refused, again, and was sentenced to 10 more.

When he got out, he called Kayla, the young woman whose number he'd written in the back of his Tolstoy collection. On their first real date they voted in municipal elections, and then spent hours walking around the city. They ended back at Kayla's apartment where, in a meet cute worthy of a rom com, Mori took one look at her bookshelf and fell head over heels. Before long he was moving in, shelving his paperbacks alongside hers.

In September, the National Book Foundation awarded Mori one of its "5 under 35" prizes; previous honorees include Téa Obreht and Karen Russell. Most rising literary stars spend their 20s debating whether to get an MFA or move to Brooklyn. Mori and Kayla chose Yellow Springs. The couple wed in 2014—Mori proposed, on a romantic stretch of lakeshore that had unexpectedly become the finish line of a triathlon—and in the fall of 2017, they left Jerusalem and moved into the Rothmans' childhood home. (Their dog, Silly Department, came with them.) Six years of activism had taken its toll on them both. Kayla's work as a human rights attorney, specializing in gender and refugee law, had started to consume her every waking moment. Mori feared his thinking was stagnating; he felt like he had said everything he needed to say. "In Israel, you're either a soldier or an activist, or you have to leave. If you're not able to be a good soldier or a determined activist, it starts to eat you alive."

Sadness appeared on shelves in February. Three days before it was published, Mori slogged through his first 50-mile trail race, in the kind of frigid, sloppy Midwestern conditions only someone very committed, or very stupid, would endure.

Little has changed in Yellow Springs, although the special at Ha Ha Pizza no longer comes topped with hallucinogenic mushrooms, as lore holds it once did. Locals joke that the town is an island of Bernie in a sea of Trump, a rainbow-flag-flying outpost amidst miles of cornfields. The high school kids do slow laps up and down Xenia Avenue in their jacked-up trucks, politely stopping at all the crosswalks, while Antioch students debate Wittgenstein at the Underdog Café. Soon after moving back, Mori wrote a letter to the local paper arguing that, given the

human toll of America's neo-imperial forever wars, the town council should refuse to fly the Stars and Stripes on Memorial Day.

The Yellow Springs literary scene is slightly larger than Mori and a poet friend occasionally meeting up for coffee. Thanks to Dave Chappelle, though, Mori isn't even the town's most famous resident; when someone spots him on the street and waves, it's probably just his third-grade teacher saying hello. His friendly hometown competition is not a fellow novelist but a 50-something ultrarunner, Jay, whose body-fat percentage hovers around the medically necessary mark and who can run Mori into the ground. When they hit the trails together, Mori peppers Jay with training questions while Jay picks up trail trash and stuffs it into his very short shorts. Mori recently decided to sign up for his first 100-mile race, next summer. On his Saturday long runs, he sometimes stops by the statue of Horace Mann, Antioch's first president.

"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity," reads the pedestal.

In April, Mori and Kayla's daughter was born. They named her Nahar, "river" in both Hebrew and Arabic. Like some mysterious traveler in a Marquez novel, she can alter the flow of time, speeding it up impossibly fast, or stopping it altogether for a while. Mori and Kayla pass her back and forth every couple of hours, allowing the other to work or, mercifully, sleep. Mori is amazed how, even before his two hours of freedom are up, he begins to miss his daughter. Someday, Nahar's favorite thing in the whole world might be books, or even her father. For now, though, it's the ceiling fan.

The family home is white brick, half 19th-century Colonial, half 1960s modernist renovation. A floating staircase descends into an expansive, warm-wood living room. Guests, neighbors, and housemates drift in and out of the wide doors that lead to the backyard; someone is always staying over. There's a vegetable garden and a chicken coop, and the overhanging trees are impossibly green.

Kayla and Mori serve Shabbat dinner at the same table where Mori sat as a kid. Zucchini parmesan with ricotta, melon salad with herbs from the garden, peaches and tomatoes, focaccia from the local bakery. They light the candles and bless the wine. They break the bread and sing the songs. "Shalom aleichem malakhei hashalom."

Mori writes in the early mornings, for at least two hours, at a neatly organized desk. While working on the novel, he had dinner with a painter in San Francisco who told him, "Staring at a blank canvas counts." Some days he just stares at the screen for two hours. When that fails, he closes the laptop and reads. It's all part of the process. He's working on a new long thing—he won't say much—but it requires learning Yiddish. The primary texts on his desk includes *Ulysses*, Baldwin, and *Gay New York*.

Productivity-wise, it helps to live in a small town, where the neighbor's weed wacker is more likely to be a distraction than her book launch party. It also helps not to have a day job. Mori quit his last full-time one less than a month after he and Kayla got married. This was probably for the best. "A day job brings out my worst self, having other people telling me what to do with my time. It makes me anxious, depressive, self-pitying, and resentful." It is not lost on him that this is how most people would describe locking themselves in a room and attempting to make art.

Mori doesn't consider himself a tortured artist, nor does he aspire to be. He finds it curious that Americans have such a Puritan conception of artistry—that hardship must be required to produce something serious or weighty. Like, if you enjoyed creating it, how good can it be? He once read an interview with Mario Vargas Llosa, where the Peruvian novelist admitted that he loved to write. "That felt very permission granting. I'm, like, 'Yeah, me too.' I really like writing. It feels fun. It feels like a privilege. And some mornings are painful, and sometimes I want to weep from self-pity, staring at my screen of tangled nonsense. But mostly it's fun."

In this way, writing is a close cousin to activism. "What's not often said, and can feel kind of dirty and inappropriate, is that people do activism because they enjoy it. It can be quite fun. It's invigorating. Being shot at with tear gas by the police. The after-work and late-night meetings. The organizing, the marching, the chanting. It has a kind of thrilling element, even though that's obviously not the point." He realizes, in the same breath, that this is his privilege speaking—that another obvious reason people are driven to protest is because they are deeply oppressed and very desperate. Activism is full of such paradoxes, and Mori has, over time, learned to embrace the discomfort they cause. He tends to view the world as a place where multiple truths don't compete so much as coexist.

To be an artist in the year 2018 is to be continually grappling with questions of privilege, authority, and authenticity. In his novel, Mori gives voice to an Arab grandmother, an IDF commander, a West Bank Palestinian, and a gay teenager in Auschwitz. If the only story you have permission to tell is your own, he thinks, then the abiding premise of art is dead. Still, telling others' stories means telling them with great care. Mori asked a diverse cast of friends to be early readers; they fact-checked everything from his Arabic transliterations to the number of seats in an Israeli armored personnel carrier. He's proud that, even when former IDF soldiers disagree with his politics, they don't fault his rowdy depiction of life in the barracks.

As a Jewish writer who both loves Israel and is unafraid to fault it, Mori is accustomed to attracting criticism from all quarters. Any invective you can think to hurl at him—colonialist, anti-Semite, apologist, self-hating Jew—he's already heard, probably more than once. In August, on a trip to visit family, he was detained in the Tel Aviv airport for two hours by Shin Bet security officials, who questioned him about his anti-occupation activism. The officials told him it was a "cautionary conversation," and he left the encounter deeply unsettled.

Mori used to write only when he was inspired—when something outrageous or hopeful seared his imagination. Now he writes every day, even when he's not inspired. Especially when he's not inspired. He knows from racing ultras that, just as he can always run one more step, he can always write one more word. Incrementalism isn't sexy, but it's the only way to write something longer than a wedding toast.

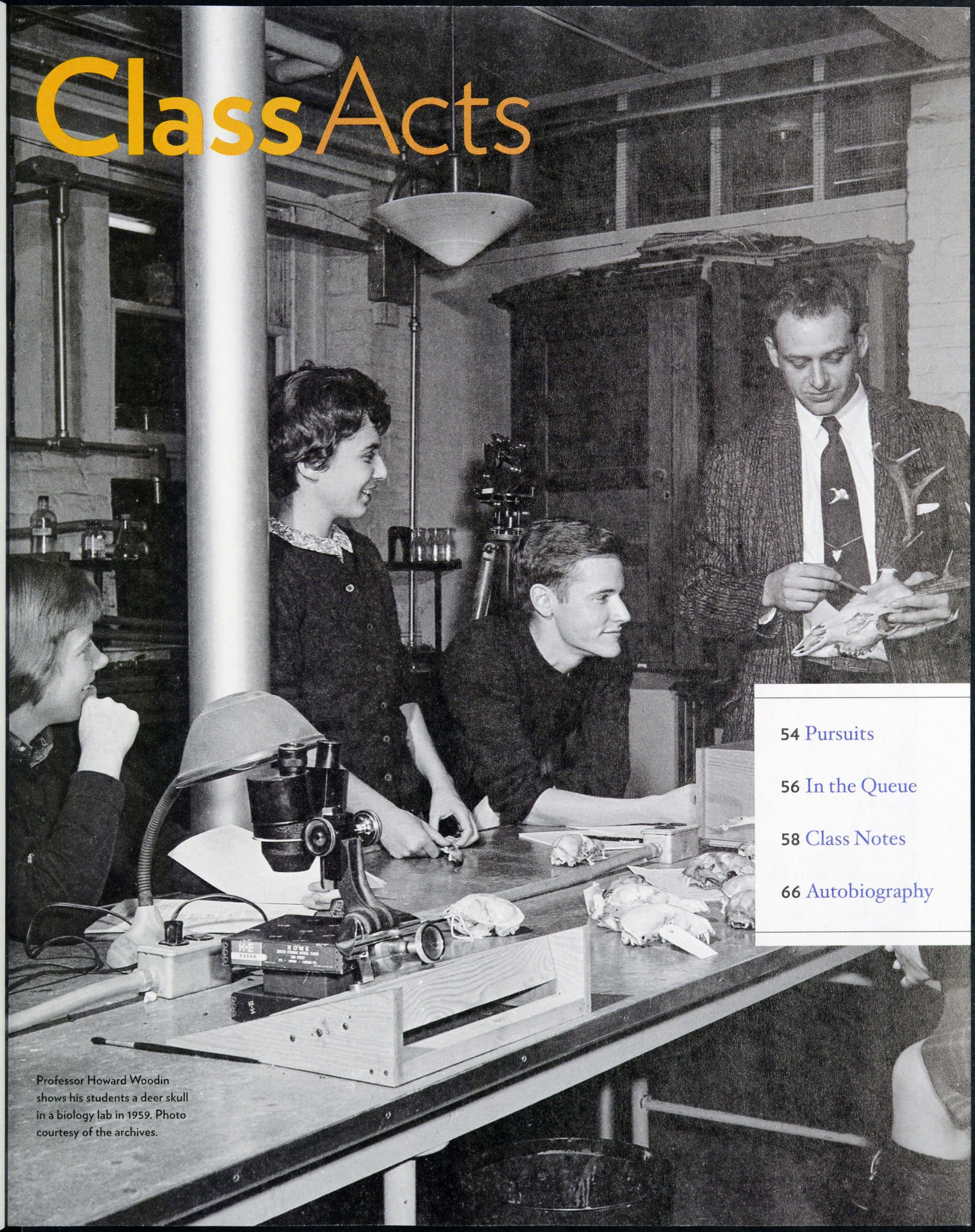
He discovered early on that simply getting started is half the battle. "I had this fallacious idea—and I don't know why no one told me otherwise—that I had to have the whole story figured out. If I'd waited for that to happen, I would never have started the novel." Instead, he populated its pages with half-formed characters and, through countless revisions, let them evolve. They began to interact in the recesses of his imagination, developing personalities, quirks, proclivities, and histories. They took on lives of their own.

One morning in 2016, deep in the writing process, Mori walked Kayla to the train. She kissed his cheek and, as she turned to go, said, "Say hi to Laith for me."

She wasn't joking, not exactly.

"It felt like we were living with these three"—Jonathan, Laith, and Nimreen—"especially during the most intense months of writing. It's as if they were alive in our house. And I miss them sometimes. I don't interact with them much anymore—occasionally, at a reading, I'll re-enliven them—but I miss thinking about them. I miss their lives having an open-endedness, a what-happens-next-ness." M

ClassActs



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66 Autobiography

Professor Howard Woodin shows his students a deer skull in a biology lab in 1959. Photo courtesy of the archives.

By Sara Thurber Marshall

Under African Skies

On her first trip to Africa, in 2010, Cori Messinger '98 could not believe how close she could get to an elephant. She felt awe and wonder at the landscape, which seemed to vibrate with life and color. She met remarkable leaders of nonprofits, who were working with local communities. She felt alive, at home. She turned to her traveling companions, leadership staff with the Nature Conservancy in Africa, and asked, "Hey, do you need some help with fundraising?"

Messinger was already working with the Maine chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC). But she was excited about making a change and TNC agreed to put her to work raising money for the continent where they had recently established a presence. As the director of philanthropy for the Nature Conservancy in Africa, she thinks of herself as a matchmaker, working to pair people with causes in African countries they want to support. "Philanthropists are looking for ways to accomplish their own personal dreams. They have certain values, or places, or themes they care about. For example, if you want to make sure that elephants don't perish in the wild as they exist today, you might want to invest in a conservation group like TNC."

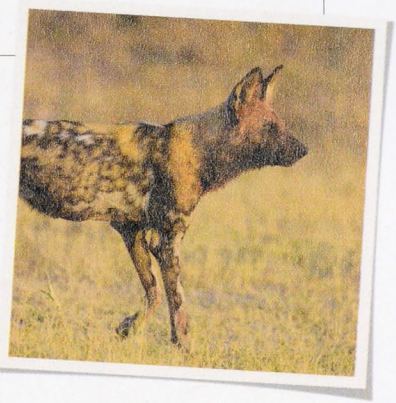
Messinger visits Africa four or five times a year to observe, and engage in, the work TNC is undertaking. She can describe exactly how TNC helped fishermen around Lake Tanganyika to implement better fishing practices and create standing nets to dry fish so they can earn more money per quota of fish. Or talk about how TNC mapped freshwater systems in Gabon so a country that needs energy development can figure out how to create hydropower dams without disrupting river habitats.

She brings supporters on her trips to see, firsthand, the important effect of their gifts, or to expose potential donors to TNC's impact in Africa. Often these trips will be to northern Kenya, where TNC has been working the longest. Messinger enjoys being a part of people's experiences on a first trip to this area where humanity originated. "They'll say there's something about it that feels familiar—something about the air, the temperature, the old red dirt." She has witnessed some amazing scenes with donors. At one point, she was at a private ranch in northern Kenya that TNC helped to protect, with a supporter from Maine and a leader from Nairobi. As they were on a game drive through the preserve they began to notice groups of elephants hovering in the area. They came around a corner and saw a large group that was particularly agitated and energetic. "A couple of them were bouncing and trumpeting, raising their trunks. Just then, one large elephant backed away a few yards from the group and a large volume of liquid came out of her and then a small, black mass. She had just given birth and we had witnessed it! The baby rose to its feet and all the other elephants immediately circled around. Our guide said they were all coming to pay their respects and they knew the birth was going to happen. We just sat there in tears."

Moments like these only enhance Messinger's appreciation of her job. She never set out to be a fundraiser but she did know, even from her Middlebury days, that she wanted to work for a conservation organization. She was an environmental studies major in college and, after graduation, started looking into job opportunities. In her home state of Maine, TNC was advertising for a fundraising assistant. "I didn't know anything about fundraising but it was a really good fit for me. You have to know a little bit about a lot of things, cover a lot of territory, and be able to engage people in the work."

Messinger does all that and more for the place she fell in love with eight years ago. "If you care about conservation in the world, you have to care about conservation in Africa. It's where some of the most intact systems still exist. It's where we can still make a difference."

PARALLELS



WILD DOGS

The African wild dog is one of Messinger's favorite animals. "Their social structure is really interesting. There's typically an alpha male and an alpha female and they den together in large packs with an altruistic social structure. They are really strong hunters and are nomadic. Wild dogs are elusive, mainly because they are unfortunately endangered."

LEGACY

Growing up, Messinger heard tales from her grandmother about how her grandfather, who was a big outdoorsman, had canoed the length of the St. John River in northern Maine. Messinger's first job with TNC was as a fundraising assistant for a campaign to protect a large stretch of the St. John River system.

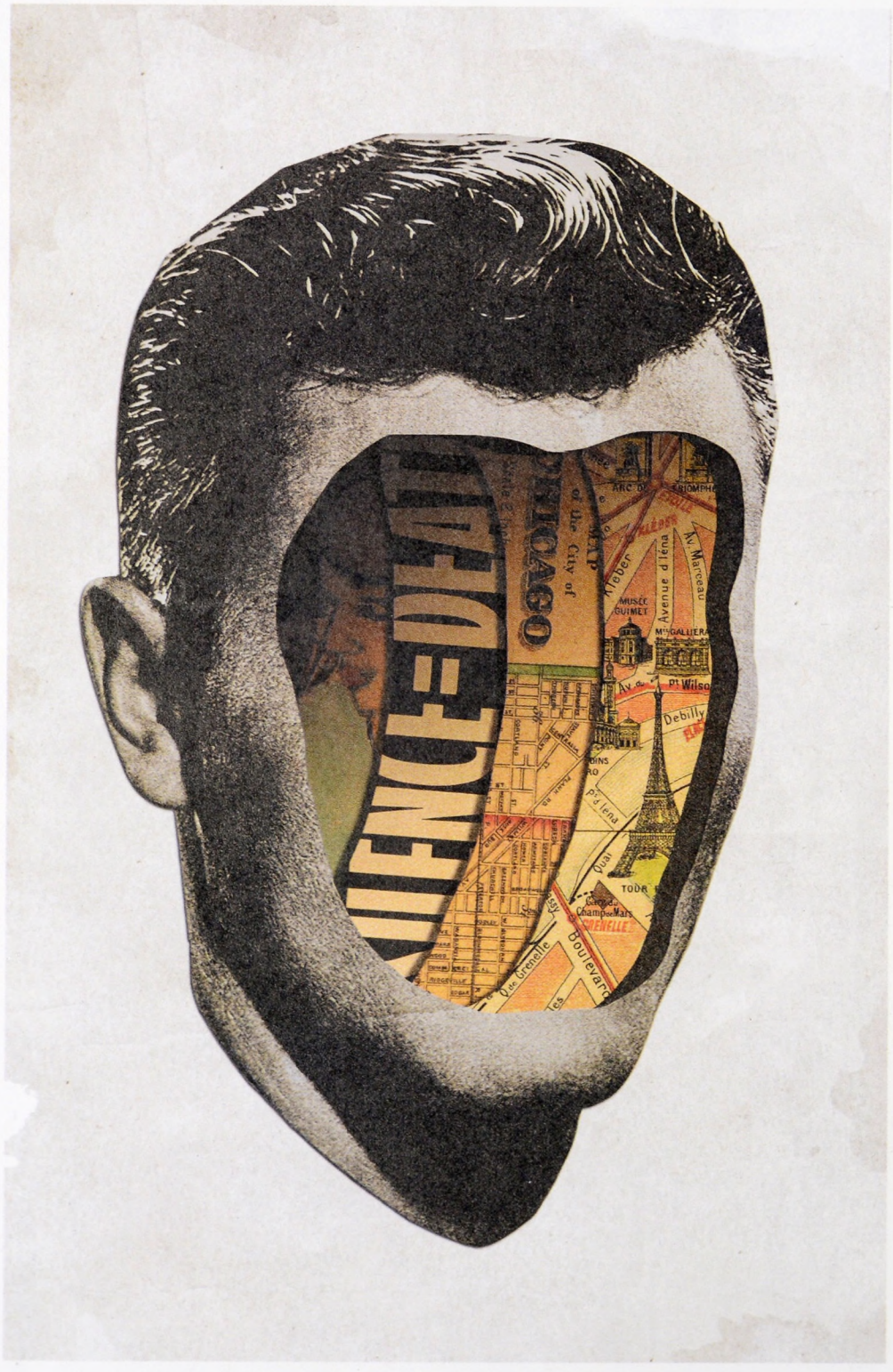
WIRE ELEPHANT

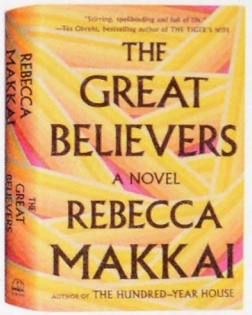
Messinger has collected many meaningful artifacts in Africa. "In Zambia, snare lines are often set out to capture wildlife and can lead to the devastation of populations of elephants and other species," she says. "Local people collect the snare wires from the wild and create artistic souvenirs from them like this elephant, with proceeds going to conservation NGOs that are working to end wildlife poaching."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIN LITTLE; WILD DOG BY KENNETH K. COE.

BOOK REVIEW

The Memory Keepers





In the face of loss and tragedy, two people struggle to find goodness and redemption.

By Claire Skogsberg

Within the first few pages of *The Great Believers*, the latest novel from Rebecca Makkai, MA English '04, we enter one of the most captivating and emotional works of historical fiction of recent time. Making leaps between decades, in alternating chapters, between Chicago in the 1980s and modern-day Paris, she creates two plots, wholly different in substance but parallel in spirit.

Half of the novel follows Yale Tishman, an openly gay man living in the midst of the AIDS epidemic of 1985, as he grapples with the consequences of living his own life and being true to it. We first meet him at the funeral of one of his closest friends, Nico, the first person he ever lost to the illness. Nico is not the last Yale will lose over the course of the novel, but his death sets in motion a change in identity for Yale, a forced realization that nothing in his life could ever be as it was. Contagion inflicts fear and guilt on the communities Yale has made his home, as the lives of those around him are seized by paralyzing and pervasive doubt. His own relationships are tested, and the implications of the illness invade every aspect of his life.

The other half follows Fiona, Nico's younger sister, as she searches for her estranged daughter in 2015 Paris. As her story develops, we come to see the unique way AIDS has affected her life. Her story reads almost like a detective novel, abundant with thrilling twists and cliff-hanging chapter endings, but it is not without depth. In Fiona, we see a life drawn out before us, as it really is—with the highs of love and lows of loss present throughout.

In Yale's and Fiona's intertwining stories, a movement comes to life before our eyes, and the moments of sadness that lie within the novel are punctuated with illuminating realization. Suddenly, *The Great Believers* becomes

ILLUSTRATION BY LINCOLN AGNEW

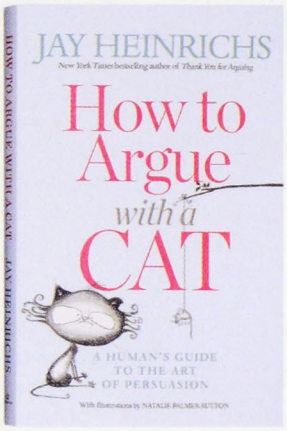
something of a road map to get us through the challenges that feel impossible to overcome.

Makkai has accomplished something brilliant in writing about an epidemic that has affected us all, whether we know it or not, and this book invites us to understand how. She writes masterfully about loss and tragedy, but her most important message lies in the way she writes about love—platonic, romantic, and unrequited. A writer who can breathe meaning into one sequence of words on a page for readers from all different backgrounds, ages, and moral dispositions, as she does, is an exceptional one.

She exposes, with great honesty and reflection, the primal nature of all relationships, how a heart heals differently for every person but the strength gathered from hurt takes shape in familiar ways. M

EXCERPT

Lately he'd had two parallel mental lists going: the donor list and the sick list. The people who might donate art or money, and the friends who might get sick; the big donors, the ones whose names you'd never forget, and the friends he'd already lost. But they weren't close friends, the lost ones, until tonight. They'd been acquaintances, friends of friends like Nico's old roommate, Jonathan, a couple of gallery owners, one bartender, the bookstore guy. There were, what six? Six people he knew of, people he'd say hi to at a bar, people whose middle names he couldn't tell you, and maybe not even their last names. He'd been to three memorials. But now, a new list: one close friend. Yale and Charlie had gone to an informational meeting last year with a speaker from San Francisco. He'd said, "I know guys who've lost no one. Groups that haven't been touched. But I also know people who've lost 20 friends. Entire apartment buildings devastated." And Yale, stupidly, desperately, had thought maybe he'd fall into that first category.



Cat Fight

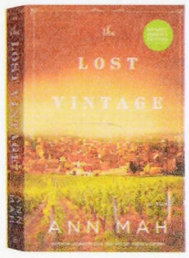
By Matt Jennings

I have a cat named Michael, and the idea of arguing with him is ludicrous; not because he's an animal or even a cat, but because he's this particular cat. He's selfish, manipulative, and capable of abject aloofness if he is not intent on getting something; on a 10-point cat scale, he's an 11.

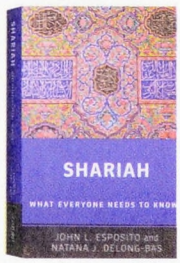
So when a copy of Jay Heinrichs's *How to Argue with a Cat* landed on my desk, I was intrigued. Heinrichs, Class of '77, is the best-selling author of *Thank You for Arguing*, perhaps the finest book ever written on the subject of rhetoric; now in its third edition, it has been published in 12 languages and used in more than 3,000 college courses. *How to Argue with a Cat* is a slim companion to the first book, and while I was skeptical on how practical the text would be, I knew it would be an entertaining read. Full disclosure: Heinrichs is a contributor to this magazine and a friend of mine. That said, I also enjoy rhetorically grappling with Jay—I "lose" most every time—and am competitive enough to want to poke holes in his logic.

I was halfway through the book, enjoying the hell out of the writing but not exactly persuaded that I could argue with Michael, when one sentence stopped me in my tracks. And I'm not going to tell you what it was; you'll need to discover it for yourself. And when you do, you might, just might, believe you can argue with your cat. In the coming days, I'm going to try a new approach with Michael; and if it works with him, it should work with just about anybody—or thing. M

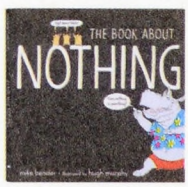
EDITORS' PICKS



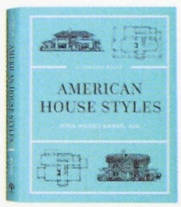
ANN MAH
The Lost Vintage
In this compelling novel by Ann Mah, Chinese '95, French '08, a young wine expert returns to her family's ancestral home in Burgundy, France, where she uncovers a mystery that involves her relatives' actions during the Nazi occupation.



JOHN L. ESPOSITO
NATANA DELONG-BAS
Shariah
Natana DeLong-Bas '90 has coauthored this timely book, which explains what people need to know about Shariah and how it plays a vital role in the lives of Muslims, dispelling the ignorant myths generated about it.



MIKE BENDER
The Book About Nothing
Is it possible to write a book for children that is about nothing? Mike Bender '97 proves that not only is it possible but it can be highly entertaining.



JOHN MILNES BAKER
American House Styles
In this updated version of his popular guide, John Baker '55 describes the historical, cultural, and technical influences on the varied house styles of America and includes beautifully detailed drawings of those styles.

ClassActs

Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)

Thomas D. Steinle '84, President • Janine Hetherington '95, Vice President • Wendy Russell Tracy '95, Past President • Hannah C. Burnett '10 • Jamal W. Davis '11 • David R. Ellis '09 • William L. Graham '76, MA English '84 • Shana Mitchell Hopkins '94 • Samuel S. Libby '09 • R. Drew Miller '03 • Meegan S. Moszynski '01, MAIPS '12 • Anne Harris Onion '69 • Katie Rosin-Green '97 • Nadia R.R. Schreiber '12

Ex Officio: Meg Storey Groves '85, Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Programs • Beth Connor, Director of Alumni and Parent Programs

If anyone in the Classes of 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, or 1939 would like to share news with the Middlebury community, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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Linda Whitworth Marshall '66 sent a note about her mother, **Laura Smith Whitworth**, who died on March 23. "My mother passed away four days before her 100th birthday. Her time at Middlebury included some of the happiest times of her life. She and my father, Foster Whitworth III '39, met at Middlebury and they used to reminisce about skiing on Chipman Hill in those days. No Middlebury Snow Bowl! She was a proud member of the Tridelt sorority, as well, and kept that association for almost all her life, joining a local chapter of the alumni of Tridelt. She reminisced often about the good friends she made while in Middlebury." • If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to one of us.

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Wolfington Hubbard-Ovens, 22 Inverness Dr., Apt. I-116, New Hartford, NY 13413; Margaret Shaub, 7 Aspen Dr., Apt. 236, South Burlington, VT 05403.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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To the thunderous applause of a thousand alumni who'd returned to Middlebury for their 2018 Reunion, President Laurie Patton started down the aisle of Mead Chapel. She was escorted by the only members of the Class of 1943 to attend their 75th Reunion—**Dumont Rush** and me, **Stuart Walker**. The president later claimed that for her this was the culminating moment of the Reunion—and, as the deafening cane pounding and clapping continued minute after minute, Dumont and I were in complete agreement. What a glorious moment for us and for Midd! (It reminded me of the thrill I had felt, as a member of the 1968 United States Olympic Team, when I emerged into the bright sunlight of the Olympic Stadium in Mexico City and heard the roaring welcome of 150,000 spectators!) I recognized what had been obvious when so many of my fellow alumni came to congratulate me ("Why congratulate me? All I've done is survive!"): I was but a romantic symbol. I represented everyone's aspiration to return to college in their 90s and celebrate as I was doing. But at that moment being a symbol was quite enough. I wore a Middlebury College tie—the last one available in the bookstore. When President Patton admired it, I resolved to ask the bookstore to order more and to send one to her husband. (They could—and would—and could also send one to each of my living male classmates—**Phil Backup**, **John Gale**, and **Dumont Rush**. And, if to them, why not to our women—**Jean Jordan Sheild**, **Lois Gilmore**, **Gertrude "Scotty" Lacey Thornton**, **Mary Hickcox Lecko**, and **Natalie Dane Richdale**—so that they too could share in the celebration. At Convocation every class, except ours, presented a "State of the Class" address from the pulpit. (But figuring, I suppose, that '43 was already getting more attention than any old bats deserved, they chained me to my chair in the front row.) But they can't keep me under wraps! Here is—more or less—what I would have said: "We in the Class of '43 have noticed that the campus seems crowded by a bunch of new buildings (an embarrassment of riches) and a lot of new trees, one set of which—the swath that obscures the facades of Mead Chapel and Hepburn—deprives us of what was once one of the loveliest vistas on the planet: that sweep of open grass that led the eye from the walk behind Starr and Old Chapel and Painter—unobstructed by any tree—all the way to Mead Chapel. Welcome back, Dumont!"

—Class Correspondent: Stuart Walker (stuarthodgewalker@gmail.com), 1888 Luce Creek Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.

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REUNION CLASS Please put the date of our 75th Reunion on your calendar for June 7–9!

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Wheaton Evans (rrwe@verizon.net), 80 Salisbury St., Unit 603, Worcester, MA 01609; Elizabeth Ring Hennefrund (eliz.bet@earthlink.net), 397 Old Sherman Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.

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Alumni Editor's note: A fascinating article came across my desk about **Joye Hummel Kelly**, who spent one year with this class at Middlebury before her divorced mother asked her to come back to Long Island. She continued her education at New York's Katherine Gibbs School, where she met William Marston, the professor of her favorite class, psychology. Unbeknownst to many, his second career was as the creator of the comic book character of Wonder Woman. A bright student, Joye earned an invitation from Marston to work in his Manhattan art studio in 1944, writing and collaborating on fantastic stories about Wonder Woman. The scripts she and Marston wrote would be reviewed by an editor and a 10-person panel that included child psychologists, psychiatrists, and even the novelist Pearl S. Buck to make sure their stories didn't say or show anything that would be contrary to the welfare of a child. Joye's name never appeared in the published comics. The author was always a pseudonym, Charles Moulton. She was paid $50 a script and worked for three years before Marston died in 1947 and she married. Largely forgotten, Joye was rediscovered about five years ago by Jill Lepore, who interviewed her for a book she was writing, *The Secret History of Wonder Woman.* Several people took notice and this year Joye was invited to Comic-Con, the international comic convention held annually in San Diego. At the Eisner Awards, the industry's Oscars, she received the Bill Finger Award for Excellence in Comic Book Writing and earned a standing ovation when she accepted the award. In a few short years, in the 1940s, she had helped shape an enduring icon that lives on today and she was finally recognized for it. • **Elaine King Dandh** sent this note from Texas: "So much is happening six miles south of me at the Mexican border that I have been glued to the news. Here almost all of the population is Hispanic, descendants of old Mexican families who came here many years ago. Everybody is concerned about what is happening to immigrant children at the border, especially those small ones who have been torn from their parents. It is an exciting place to live in. Fortunately, the 22 years that I spent in Guadalajara left me with fluency in what I like to call conversational Spanish. As for my news, my book, *Elderville*, has been published and is probably my last. Recently, though, I studied my mother's 1919 Middlebury yearbook. Perhaps I'll tackle the story of her rather remarkable life." • From **Mew**: Life in the 90s is different from the 80s or even the 70s. Right? How about your memory? Back to 1941, applying to college? I was asked this week, "How did you come to be at Middlebury?" Here is the story: Living in York, Pa., I was thinking of Bryn Mawr, but my dad said, "Coed." I applied to Swarthmore, only 80 miles away, was a good student, had good alumni support in my basketball coach, Quaker connections, was interviewed, visited campus, and assumed I would be going there. Who knows why I was turned down, but in May 1941, I was working with a counselor to help me choose whether to be a secretary or teacher or nurse, the options open to women in those days, and he suggested Middlebury as his daughter had gone there and loved it. I applied, was put on a waiting list, was accepted at

the end of July, and arrived in September never having been in Vermont or interviewed there. My record had spoken for itself. And I did love it. Good choice. There were only 800 students then, with 250 women and men in the freshman class. In those days of nickel Cokes, tuition and board was probably $2,000. What do you remember? Let's keep in touch. "**Mew**"

—Class Correspondent: Mary Elizabeth Wisotzkey McClellan (marylizl24@comcast.net), 124 RiverMead Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.

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Correspondent **Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom** reports: **Jane Drury MacLeod** and I both use our Middlebury 40th Reunion mug almost daily, remarkably with no chips after all these years. Jane attended her last Middlebury '46 Reunion with her husband in 2006, the year that he died. She lives at Claremont Manor in the college town of Claremont, Calif. Like many of the rest of us, she uses a walker but is in good health. Of her five children, one daughter is her "finance minister" and another daughter is her shopper/laundress. She keeps in touch with **Mary Selleck Hellekjaer** once a year but both of us seem to have lost touch with **Kay Craven**. After she realized that I live in Maine, Jane and I talked about her childhood summers and fall weekends in Nobleboro. • **Betsy Barclay Wales** says we can tell you that it's a long way to Tipperary, and elderness is not for sissies. I like the word she coined, elderness, to express what I am hearing from many of our peers today. • **Jan Shaw Percival** sees only shadows now and depends greatly on her talking books, finding them a wonderful way to pass time. She participates in exercise class once a day, and enjoys discussion groups and musical programs. Fortunately, her daughter lives near enough to do errands and furnish transportation as needed. • **Avery Post** is still able to participate in activities at his old church in Norwich, Vt., from his residence of 17 years at Kendal in Hanover. Peg has been gone more than eight years now but considering the associations they shared in this location, he is happy with his memories, enjoying ongoing and current friendships in good health. • I do not try to attend church in Kennebunk, there being no transportation provided by Huntington Common. The last time I went with a friend, I found the outing strenuous. So being a retired church musician, I focus on playing piano for the once monthly Sunday afternoon Episcopal Eucharist service at the chapel in the building where I have now lived for eight years. Except in summer, I play for a first Sunday of the month afternoon hymn sing. Four mornings a week, on the parlor grand piano, I play through the same great collection of Broadway hits in simple arrangements that take just a half hour. It adds a little life that passersby enjoy. I hope, with the repetition, to memorize them before my eyesight dims further. • Correspondent **Joan "Cam" Campbell Shaw** reports: **Barbara Busing Harris** still enjoys life in the independent apartment building at the Taylor Community in Laconia, N.H., where she runs the library (with help now that her eyesight is limited). She also sets up the weekly bridge game and makes sure they have 12 players. Barb appreciates Large Print books and her Kindle, delightful programs downstairs, and an occasional bus trip to New Hampshire or Maine points of interest. She says her daughters, Anne Onion '69 and Martha Dolben '72, both stop by to help her catch up on the mail and checkbook. Anne spent a weekend at Middlebury helping to plan her 50th reunion. Her youngest daughter, Ellen Swiggett '82, teaches high school English in Guilford, Conn., so she is pretty busy, but the family was all going to be together for a vacation the first week in August at Rockywold Deephaven Camps on Squam Lake, N.H. Her son Peter '74 skied a Nordic race in Iceland, bringing the number of countries in which he has raced to 10! He and his wife recently visited their sixth grandchild (Barbara's eleventh great-grand) in Ketcham, Idaho. • **Barbara "Penny" Snow Cassedy** is living in Port Orchard, Wash., near Seattle. She has a lovely private apartment in the pondside home of her daughter, Laura, and her husband. Laura works at home as a translator of Russian and some French. Both of her daughters, Karen '79 and Laura '82, are Midd graduates. Penny goes to the Y for exercise twice a week and sometimes calls upon Visiting Angels to do errands. She had a wonderful trip to Hawaii with her whole family in February. It was interesting to learn that Penny, whose father was in the Army and stationed at Fort Davis in Panama, spent two years of her childhood in Panama and saw many ships going through the locks. • I had a great conversation with **Barbara "Flinkie" Flink Ewels** on the second day of summer. We did a lot of reminiscing, especially laughing about the dress code at the College in the '40s, such as no long pants unless the temperature went below 20 degrees below zero and dress up for Sunday dinner with stockings and heels. (No cafeteria meals for us!) Also, the strict curfews and signing out for the library in the evening. More seriously, Flinkie spoke of the terrible tragedy taking place in our country, with young children being taken away from their refugee parents at the border. At this point, Flinkie is praying that Donald Trump will be impeached and I agree. • Just for general interest and an example of the importance of the mantra "don't fall," a word about the spectacular crash I (**Cam**) took a couple of months ago. I stubbed my toe while walking across our living room carpet, lost my balance, and went careening toward the fireplace. My head hit the edge of the raised brick fireplace and I twisted my knee badly. Fortunately, nothing was broken but I was out of commission for a while. I'm now quite attached to my cane! • There is a change of address to make note of: **Mary Nasmith Means** is now at 13650 Heathcote Blvd., #343, Gainesville, VA 20155; tel. no. 703-753-7553.

—Class Correspondents: Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom (nordstrom61@gmail.com), 1 Huntington Common Dr., #160, Kennebunk, ME 04043; Joan Campbell Shaw (camshaw46@comcast.net), 49 Cottage St., Manchester Center, VT 05255.

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Tiffany Clark Nourse sent the following, which I think worth quoting. "Thought I'd let you know that I enjoyed slipping into Bart's 70th Reunion in June. Mainly, I wanted to tell you how wonderfully the College is doing at keeping us all a part of the celebrations. They did that for me by livestreaming two of the class's programs. Sitting at home with my laptop, I felt that I was truly there for the panel discussion, moderated by Laurie Patton. The livestreaming was picture perfect and audibly clear. This technology is fascinating. And then the College livestreamed Convocation. Again, sitting at home, I felt part of all the classes coming into the chapel, which included two gentlemen from the Class of 1943, escorted by President Patton. I heard all the singing, all the 'tap-tap-tapping' of the canes. I knew many from Bart's class, of course. In fact, I hosted two of them overnight for the weekend and three others to dinner. They were all very pleased with the College's efforts. There were 11 back. I think we had six last year." • I had a long talk with **Robert Sambone**. He said he was not doing much these days, but he had most certainly lived a varied and exciting life. His college experiences included Trinity, UConn, and studies abroad in Sweden, as well as Middlebury. The Swedish experience came about when he happened to see an ad in the *New York Times* announcing a scholarship program offered by the King of Sweden. He applied and was awarded the scholarship. He lived with a Swedish family, whom he came to love dearly. Then one day, he offered to help a woman by planting her tulip bulbs. That proved a big mistake. The next day, all hell broke loose as the woman was soundly criticized for letting a student work for her. The townspeople proclaimed it an insult to the King of Sweden, the citizens, and the student himself. It seems that in Europe, students then did not work. He traveled to a great many places and stayed in Europe until his family told him he had been there long enough and should come home. Many of the places he visited were in the southern islands. He made no reservations; rather, he depended on opportunities springing up for him. His attitude was "here I am" and it worked very well for him, as he always met people willing to help. He found that wearing his graduation cap opened a lot of doors for him as students were held in great respect. Robert is a social worker and has been involved with people in hospitals and 20 years with hospice. He now lives in the family home, which was built in 1805. He told me so many interesting stories that I cannot do him justice. • When I reached **Margaret "Peggy" Armstrong Igleheart**, she was waiting for someone to come and fix her kitchen sink. It had sprung a leak and water was everywhere. One of the benefits of liv-

ing in a retirement community is that help is always available. You don't have to wait on a list hoping for someone to come or even answer the phone for that matter. In fact, the plumber arrived while we were talking. Peggy is very happy with her first-floor apartment, and she has her own flower garden just outside. Ten years ago, after an extreme snowstorm that isolated her for more than 25 hours, her two sons talked her into moving from Vermont to a retirement community in Connecticut to be near her daughter. She still returns to Vermont each year for the summer. Her Vermont home is located on 10-acre zoning so there are no near neighbors. There are two alums in her complex, but she has yet to meet them, and they are much younger than she. She and a friend had just returned from Alaska, having left Vancouver and taking the inside waterway to Alaska, but returning by the outside route. Peggy is still very much involved with her music. She had just finished five programs in 10 days' time. For each program, she practices for three or four hours each day, which does leave her "a little tired." One of her sons and his wife are in Hong Kong, where they plan to stay until his wife retires, at which point they will return to the U.S. Her daughter, who recently received her PhD, specializes in urban education, an area in which there is much need for help. She and her daughter attended our last reunion for a short time. Her daughter was interested in questioning people about the problems in urban education, the top problem of which, she believes, is the lack of parental cooperation. • After calling seven more people to no avail, I finally connected with **Anne Macomber Wood**. What a relief to finally reach someone on the other end! Anne's latest news is her third great-grandchild, a little girl, born at the end of July. Anne said the only difficulty is that she seldom gets to see them as they live in South Carolina. But she is grateful for modern technology as she receives computer-based moving pictures of them which she can view on her iPad. Anne now uses a walker when she leaves the apartment, but can manage without it when at home. She keeps up with the world by attending a newscast Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Anne belongs to a book club. This month's choice is entitled *Cutting for Stone*, very interesting, but very, very long. Anne is plagued by robo-calls (as I am myself) and keeps a running list of "do not answer" area codes and numbers. • I called **John Moriarity** only to be informed that the number is no longer in service. Last quarter, I tried to call **Carl Parkinson**, but received only busy signals. Two weeks later, he called me and explained why. It seems he had spent several weeks in the hospital. On the strength of that and his physical problems, he and his wife, Helen, decided it was time for them to leave their original home. Carl is not able to do many of the tasks that he used to. Cooking is a real problem, and so they have moved into an assisted living community. He has turned his gun collection over to his son and has also entrusted his son with his finances. The son sold their home for them and now watches over them in their new dwelling.

—Class Correspondent: Jeannette Atkins Louth (wmjalouth@comcast.net), 99 Depot Road West, West Harwich, MA 02671.

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We had 11 classmates and several spouses at our 70th Reunion in June. The 1948 members who came back were **Betty Reid Buzby**, **Allan Frew**, **Ruth Wimmer Leggett**, **Shirley March Randall**, **Livi Remmler Rosman**, **Jean Huey Smolens**, **Perry Maurer Thompson**, **Jean Swenson Thorkildsen**, **Nancy Leach Ward**, **Stew Washburn**, and me, **Adele Stemmler Taylor**. The weather was perfect and it was such fun to be back in Vermont with some old pals and to walk up Chapel Hill together with my classmates. • **Jean Thorkildsen** writes, "I had a wonderful time at Reunion. I totally enjoyed being immersed in the beautiful environment that is the Middlebury campus. My special memory is experiencing the view at dusk from the observation deck on the roof of Bicentennial Hall. Being on top of a five-story building situated on the crest of a ridge made the view of the surrounding countryside as if from an aircraft. The evening sky of a beautiful June day was full of stars and then the International Space Station made an appearance as we watched. Unforgettable! I also enjoyed renewing my friendship with classmate **Liv Rosman**, and meeting her niece Karen Rosman. While my home in upstate New York is only a two-hour drive to Middlebury, Liv traveled from Berkeley, Calif., and many others who were there came a similar distance. I'm sure all agreed it was a worthwhile destination. In closing, I want to give a hand to the Reunion committee and College staff who put on such a great party for the alums. It was surely appreciated." • **Shirley "Marcey" Randall** writes, "Seeing Mead Chapel on the hill again was inspiring! I enjoyed meeting old and new friends. It was wonderful talking to **Stemmie** (**Adele Taylor**), my first roommate, who has done so much to keep us connected. It was great singing in the choir again on Sunday morning with **Jean Smolens** and other friends. The panel of students conducted by our new Midd president was most informative. The weather was perfect! Of course, a highlight was marching under our 1948 banner with **Stemmie** and **Stewie** up to Convocation in the chapel, while holding our Gamaliel Painter canes. What a great sound it was to hear the thunderous tapping of the canes again. It was hard to keep tears back! Classmates, you would have been proud of **Stemmie**, who gave a marvelous speech from the platform at the close of the service. We missed those of you who couldn't make it and hope you will be with us at our 75th Reunion." • **Charlie** and **Mim Wade Butts** regret not having been able to travel to Middlebury in June to visit with classmates at the 70th Reunion, but the "Class of 1948 Memories" booklet helped compensate. "Congratulations to all who organized it and contributed. It's good to be reminded of favorite professors and courses, campus activities, roommates, social events, and even a few harmless 'after hours' escapades. Although not exactly related to academic pursuit, which, presumably, was why we were all there in the first place, was the memory of being jammed into the back of Chet Brush's (?) truck as it ground its way up into the mountains for skiing or Mountain Club hikes and then, swaying around curves, back down again just in time for compulsory 5 o'clock Sunday Chapel. It appeared in four of the 20 contributions and, along with stories of getting around Mrs. Pete's curfew, was mentioned more often than any other. Who ever heard of seat belts? Do they still do that today? One of the unforgettable experiences in the fabric of our memorable four years at Midd."

—Class Correspondent: Adele Stemmler Taylor (adelesilverfox@gmail.com), 471 Washington Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Rachel Adkins Platt** reports: Yesterday I was fortunate to reach **Rachel "Reggie" Stryker Smith** and we had a delightful conversation as to their life and plans for this next year. She says she has slowed down a bit as her knees bother her some but it seems like she and Dwight still have a pretty busy pace. In August they rented a house in Cape May and had all their children and families there for a week. I believe Rachel said there were about 18 or so in all. Always fun when you can get all your family together. In November they are off to Spain, where they will board a small ship and travel to Gibraltar, Morocco, and the Canary Islands. As they are both still cross-country skiing, they are off to Austria in February to spend some time doing cross-country, as they gave up downhill skiing several years ago. More power to both of you. Sounds like an interesting busy schedule. Meanwhile back at home they enjoy the opera, their friends, and hiking and biking a bit. • To all my classmates, I would love a phone call, email, or snail mail. All your classmates enjoy hearing updates on your lives. And don't forget to put our 70th Reunion on your calendar for next June 7–9!

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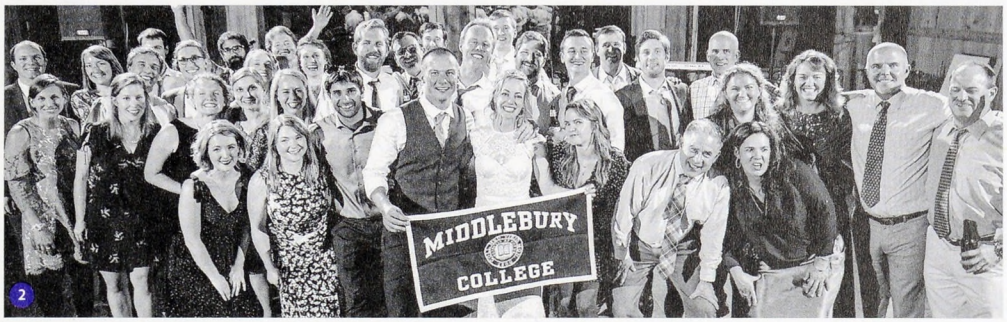
As of this issue, **Jinny Orrall Albert** is stepping down as the class correspondent. We thank her for her many years of gathering class notes. If you are interested in taking over this job and staying in touch with classmates, please contact Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, Middlebury Magazine, 152 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or email smarshal@middlebury.edu.

51 **Betty "Liz" Nelson** wrote from the UK about an interesting project she started. "I'm still working full time and I'm not the only 85-year-old working away at something we all like doing. I have started a new charity—believe it or not, in the United Kingdom there is no archive of social history. I, along with 50 other volunteers, am collecting books, journals, and case studies and am cataloging and arranging access via a website for academics and businesses to gain inspiration from past data from the 1930s in order to better predict the future. We are the first to set up such an archive and I am loving every minute of it. And the best thing about it is that not only are we getting national coverage in the press and on TV, we are working with colleagues from the past who all agree—keeping the brain going helps keep the body going." Sounds like a great project that will be useful for future generations. Keep up the good work! • **Roland Coates** enjoyed a family reunion with five of their children, 16 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Roly says he is proud of his Middlebury education. He reported that his first job was selling ties at the Harvard Coop, where he made $37 a week. His last job was as a management consultant with his wife, Liz. They were doing so well he didn't retire until he was 72. He calls himself a "practicing artist," but we know he is a wonderful artist. We know he is a great singer as well. He also has published his memoir. • When **Barbara Pike Prinn** read the reference in my memo to her about "the college on the hill," she burst into song! She still can sing many of the Midd songs. (How many of you can?) Barb is enduring major back problems but is still happy to be at the senior facility in Concord, N.H. She enjoyed a visit from her son, his wife, and five-year-old grandson. Amazing how little ones can boost your spirit! • **Lois Behrman Watson** writes that they have visited Middlebury every summer for over 30 years as they give three scholarships to teachers who wish to get their master's or PhD in language. The luncheon at the president's house is an exciting event. They also give three scholarships at the Middlebury Institute in Monterey and have been there as well. They have spent the last 35 summers in Woodstock, Vt., so they really feel like Vermonters. They still hike in the mountains, kayak on the lakes, and play golf. They sold the plane and sadly quit flying! • **Ed Furber** writes, "Chemotherapy only worked partially on my lymphoma. Now I am on immunotherapy, which seems to be working. I'll know in two more months." Other than being tired, he was enjoying beautiful Maine summer weather when he wrote and was sailing, walking, and generally being busy doing nothing. We all wish you the best, Ed. • **Bill** and **Phyllis Cole Deming** recently celebrated their 67th anniversary. I (**Lee**) saw a picture of Bill on Facebook, in a golf cart. He says he won't be a good golfer until he learns to keep his head down if he expects to hit the ball! • I (**Lee**) am very sorry to report the sad news that **Ellie Hight Morris** died in June.



1 Andrew Statires '03 was the officiant of the marriage between Molly Barefoot '03 and Peter Matchak at the State Room in Boston, Mass., on December 30, 2017. Many Midd friends joined the couple for the celebration: (all '03 unless noted) (on floor) Anna Gayman McDonald, Daisuke Yasutake '04, (second row) the newlyweds, Liv Wilson Thompson, Maggie Smith Chaviano '04, Dana Chapin Anselmi '02, Eliza Funston Jones, (third row) Andrew Statires, Lisa Pilkington Brown, Tessa Horst Pickard, Kristin Hanley Richman, Becky Belcher Feen '01, Eric Smith '04, Leah Cumsky-Whitlock Lavin, Betsy Wheeler Scanlon '01, (fourth row) Alison Poppe Rose, Damien Chaviano '04, Pat Rose, JB Gerber '04, Denver Smith, Katie Simpson Lopes, Wesley Hyatt, John Donnelly '04, Alex Nadas '06, Haley Gilbert '07, Mike Frissora, Donald Anselmi '04, and Brian Lavin '02. 2 The wedding of Audrey Nelson '08 and Dave Campbell '08 was celebrated with much merriment and gusto at Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colo., on October 28, 2017. Family, friends, and many fellow Midd alumni joined the happy couple: (all '08 unless noted) Ellen Grafton Stearns, Dorothy Muirhead Demers, Nathaan Demers, the newlyweds, Rachel Ann Cole, Christopher Viscomi '81, Jackie Brown-Hennessy '88, (second row) Emily Peterson, Elizabeth Kelley Sohn '09, Sarah Luehrman Axelrod, Kelsey Nykiel-Bub Yoquinto, AnnMarie Wesolowski, Patrick Cunningham, Jack Britton, Alex Palmisano '07, Frank Granara, Mike Stone '09, Dave Donahue '91, Hannah Hennessy '12, Pam Lawson Quinn '88, Erin Quinn '86, David Hennessy '85, (third row) Philip Picotte, Devon Parish '05, Will Bloomer, Gus Goodwin, Brad Hutchinson, Josha Nathan, Alyssa Panning, Emily Irwin, Bonnie Hemphill, Ben Hanna, Ryder Musselman, Luke Yoquinto, and David Campbell '00.

3 Lacrosse players from the Class of 2006 got together for their sixth annual holiday dinner in New York City: Aaron Herter, JP Coviello, Travis Meyer, Jon Sisto, Chip Campbell, and Gabe Wood. 4 At the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, Catherine Collins '10 and Simi Hamilton '09 met up shortly after Simi finished ninth in the World Cup sprint. 5 Two Middlebury alumni got together with their friend and former Middlebury town resident Jon Glazer for a trip down the Salmon River in Idaho: Eric Weber '81, Jon, and Brad Marden '81.

ClassActs

Ellie was outstanding in all aspects of her life. At Midd she was Mortar Board, candidate for Junior Weekend queen, one of two women in our class who was a math major, and friend of all. My first memory of her is freshman week in Hillcrest. She visited every room to meet her dorm mates. That was the kind of person she was. She always reached out to others and was like that all her life. She made friends instantly, and they were lasting friendships. In Simsbury, Conn., she did a variety of volunteer activities. I had frequent phone conversations with her, which I enjoyed greatly. And it was wonderful to see her and Irv '53 at our 65th Reunion in 2016. Although she had several physical problems, including blindness, she never complained, was always cheerful, and never lost her sense of humor. Ellie and Irv's daughter, Julie Morris Ogden, graduated from Midd in 1986. You may remember that she ran in the New York marathon to raise money for Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary several years ago in honor of her mother. Julie's son, Malcolm, is a student at Midd now, Class of 2020. Our heartfelt sympathy to all of Ellie's family and friends. She is greatly missed. • Now, I am sure some of you think I am being very selfish to hang on to this correspondent job, when you would like to have the fun of contacting classmates and writing about them for the magazine. So I have decided I will stop being so selfish and will let someone else have the enjoyment. I know many have done it already and miss it and would like to do it again. Or if you haven't done it, I imagine you haven't volunteered when I've mentioned it because you don't want to deprive me of the pleasure. That's very kind of you but I will accept the first offer, and reluctantly (??) turn it over. It is truly great connecting with classmates. Maybe someone can get more to respond. Best wishes to all. **Lee**

—Class Correspondents: Lee Webster McArthur (bobleemca@gmail.com), 725 Willow St., Cranford, NJ 07016; Beth Huey Newman (bethhueynewman@gmail.com), 300 Woodhaven Dr., Apt. 2509, Hilton Head, SC 29928.

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Correspondent **Barbara Cummiskey Villet** reports: We lost four classmates this past spring: **Jackie Willaredt Lelong** died on April 26, **Marty Peck Burgess** on May 10, **Peg Lewis West** on May 18 and **Bob Duclos** on May 21. Each left a strong mark on our memories—Jackie for her blithe spirit and beauty; Marty, who spent most of her life remaking it and herself over and over, for her unstoppable love of a challenge; and Peg who, though from Denver, always seemed to me the quintessential and proud New England woman. And not to forget Bob, who always impressed me as a gentle Mr. Friendly. It struck me when the news came that all four departed at the time of year that signifies rebirth and the universal renewal of life and, as I looked to that for reassurance, the evidence of renewal in another form gave me comfort. It came in a reassuring conversation with **Joyce Rohr.** Ever vivacious and still a practicing musician, Joyce also takes pride in the perpetuation of musicianship in three generations of her family. She is still concertizing Bach on guitar with a partner; her son, Bradley, is a touring concert pianist; and her grandson, Conrad, has now also taken to the stage as a concert violist. Life goes on—continuity, renewal, perpetuity.

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There was a good turnout for the 65th Reunion of the Class of 1953! Classmates attending included **Clark Alvord**, **Dave Clemens**, **Ann Golding Davis**, **Betsy Cushman Gumbart**, **Terry Hoyt**, **Douglas Langdon**, **Robert Prosser**, **Ann McGinley Ross**, **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd**, **Kimber Smith**, **Carrie Schindler Strout**, **Pat Hamilton Todd**, **Bill Walker**, and **Anne Coleman Zehner**. And with thanks to all who contributed to the College this year, this class won the Gordon C. Perine '49 Award, for the Reunion class, other than the 25th or 50th, with the greatest increase in the total class gift.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Tom Ryan** reports: Greetings from the soggy Southwest! Hurricane Harvey has left, leaving only lawsuits, recriminations, and a few homeless still living in hotels. But the new hurricane season has already started, one that I can now view with more dispassion from the 11th floor of a high rise. • **Chris Van Curan** has written a book, *In the Attic of My Mind*, a memoir with 54 readable short chapters, each detailing a memorable event in his life. It took me to my mental attic, too. The chapters are in random order, but those that I found to be most intriguing were those concerning Eastern skiing and mountaineering, Middlebury College, his military time, and his business career. I had almost forgotten the high anxiety at Midd related to each grading period and one's class rank as the Korean War draft consumed more and more of the male members of our class. Thank God the administration kept all those smart women in a separate group, or almost all of the males would have been in Korea. As for skiing, Chris was active at the beginning of downhill skiing/racing at Wildcat Mountain and Tuckerman Ravine. Eastern skiing has its own unique thrills that those of us in the West, fortunately, don't share: rocks, trees, ice, fog, sleet, rain, etc. Chris broke a leg twice while skiing (bear traps and cable bindings), so he paid his dues. After spending his military career at the Pentagon, he got an MBA at the Tuck School at Dartmouth and then began a banking career in Boston (Bank of Boston), but he was able to get back to New Hampshire and Maine with great regularity. All in all, the book is a great read about college life and New England in the last half of the 20th century—a rare trip down memory lane. You can order it from Chris or the River Run Bookstore in Portsmouth, N.H. • I recently heard from **Beth Headley Kendall** in St. Paul, Minn., who has led an interesting and busy life since graduation, raising five very creative daughters. In the late '60s, after a divorce, a new job, and a successful launch of all five daughters on varying careers, she joined a new church where she had been singing in the choir. Her future husband, Bob, was hired a year later as the choirmaster and organist. He also was on the faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., which is just down the road from Carleton College. The two are liberal arts jewels. With Bob, she traveled all over the world, with the exception of Antarctica. "Living in Minnesota, we thought we could skip that one." She lost her husband two years ago and is wondering what the next phase will bring. • **Chuck Steinecke** is still spending summers in Winter Harbor, Maine, and still sailing, golfing, fishing, and doing all the maintenance chores that go with two houses and 10 acres there. "I enjoy all of this, particularly when I have a good supply of visitors. The rest of the time, I'm at a continuing care community in Maryland, which is a very different lifestyle (except for the golf). Three children are near and they've already begun offering to share the 750-mile drive to Winter Harbor with me, which is kind, but a reminder of my advancing age." • And now, the bad news. We lost two really good ones, **Marcia Kraft Goin** and **Stephen Maddock**. Marcia was a highly regarded psychiatrist, a professor at the Univ. of Southern California, and a former president of the American Psychiatric Association. She was smart, articulate, and very capable. Steve, whom I knew casually, left Midd after his sophomore year and transferred to the Univ. of Colorado, where he majored in geology, then went to Harvard for his master's, then got a PhD from Michigan. He and his wife settled in Lyme, N.H. He loved New England and everything outdoors, particularly hiking and skiing. • And now, let's all stay active and stay connected!

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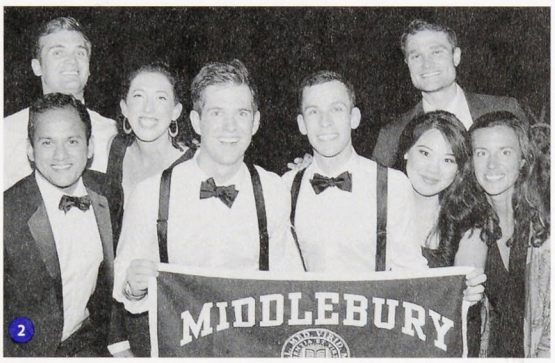
Correspondent **John Baker** reports: **Jamieson Kennedy** still gets the award for being the most upbeat and positive member of our class! His email bounced back so I called him. Jim lost his wife Connie last year but he still has a powerful joy of life and still has his medical practice and continues to ski all winter! He should stand as an example to us all. • **Frank Punderson** has had his medical issues in the last year or so. He reports that they love their new lifestyle. They have discovered electric bikes and the joy of flattening Vermont hills. • When I asked in an email to simply respond "I'm here," many did: **Dick Lane**, **George Limbach**,

Win Tremaine, **Dick Wollmar**, **Dave Corey**, **Andy Sigourney**, **Tom Seamans**, and **Stu Bacon**. • **Pete Baldwin** responded to my query: "'Here' is a thought over which I am pondering. Identifying 'here' when I am neither here nor there suggests that I am here and there, and *nather* (archaic lowland Scots, pronounced nay-ther) here nor there. Hence, or, thense-forth, keep asking: 'Peter, are you?' I shall respond, if I can, 'I am.'" • **Dave McKissock** is also still "on the green side of the grass," as my Irish friend stated. "The good news to report is that all members of our family are well and enjoyed being together for both Mother's and Father's Day celebrations." • **Alan Gould** and wife Pat had a great vacation last March in Aruba, after an absence of 45 years. They are looking forward to a return visit to New Orleans this fall with friends for a long, jazz, food-filled gig. He reported, "We presented our program on hearing loss to the elementary students at the Cornwall (Vt.) Bingham Elementary School, our second presentation for Middlebury-area students in the past three years, to celebrate 'May Is Better Hearing and Speech Month.' It was well received. Thanks for the support of **Bruce** and **Sue Heyer Byers**." • **John** and **Kathy Hughes von Hartz** visited son William and his cafe on Logan Square in Chicago. It's called Same Day Cafe because William reconfigured it from a dry cleaners called Same Day Cleaners. He renovated the interior into a welcoming cafe. He's in his third year, with business increasing markedly every year. They say, "It's really a charming place with good food and we heartily recommend it to anyone visiting Chicago. It's located at 2651 N. Kedzie Ave., Logan Square. Check it out next time you're in Chicago." (You can also check out the Coffee Wheel next time you're in Santa Fe, New Mexico. My daughter, Jennifer Baker Warren '83, and husband Chris started it as a fun sideline.) • **Tom** and Lyndie Smith '58 **Lamson** spent six days in Ireland visiting family in Delgany. "Beautiful weather. We had a beach visit, a wonderful day at the Dublin Botanical Gardens—extensive, old, and beautifully restored iron and glass greenhouses—and Little League double header! And most of all, time with our Irish family. Great fun!" • As I always say, I'll keep doing this as long as you are all responsive to my requests for news. Even an acknowledgment of my emails is helpful. My latest news is that the new second edition of my 1994 book *American House Styles* has been published and is available on Amazon. (See page 57.) In closing I have to say that several of you have commented on the article by Middlebury's Professor Shapiro about PC intolerance on college campuses and specifically at Middlebury. **Frank Punderson** put it aptly: "Tolerance and civility are the core of civilization. 'Bandwagoning' is the curse of any community." • Best wishes to all. • Correspondent **Carlene Snyder Howland** reports: **Dave** and **Joanne Kittell Corey** enjoyed attending their grandson's graduation from Paul Smith's College in Saranac, N.Y., "on a beautiful day, in a beautiful



1 In Mead Chapel at Middlebury, Kaitlin Surdoval '12 married Ryan Deane '11 on September 16, 2017. Many Midd friends helped them celebrate: Catherine Fowler '15, Tessa Howard '14, Sam Palmisano '11, Darren Scheufele '11, the newlyweds, Alison Surdoval '17, Katie Dunleavy '12, Elizabeth Garry '12, Caroline Downer '11, (second row) Brooks Toth '11, Alex Simoes '09, Stew Kerr '13, David Hild '11, Tyler Lovas '11, Larson Lovdal '16, Devin Perkins '12, Keely Levins '13, and Stacey Gorski Spring '99. 2 Several Middlebury friends from the Class of 2012 gathered to celebrate Jason Mooty '12 and Andy Schumeister's wedding on September 9, 2017, in Carmel Valley, Calif.: Armaan Sarkar, the newlyweds, Amanda Ng, Becca Fanning, (second row) Jack Maher, Colleen Carroll, and Mike Downey. 3 Friends from the Class of 1959 had an informal gathering in the Sarasota, Fla., area: (seated) Anne Martin Hartmann, Andy Montgomery, Dick Hofmann, (standing) Bill Hahn, Bick Bicknell, and Dottie Dever Frost.

4 Ellen Dahlberg '12 married Andrew Holzhauer outside of Madison, Wis., on September 30, 2017, with Midd friends in attendance: (all '12 unless noted) Johnny Echevarria, Grace Compton, Hanna Howell, the newlyweds, Scott Klenet, Jessica Guter, Justine Warren, Lisa Mulcahy, Connor Wood '11, (second row) Andy Collins, Emily Scarisbrick, Chris Coe, Justin Collins, and Charlie Ellison. 5 A group of friends from 2014 and 2014.5 got together for a mini-reunion over the holidays last winter: Jenny Johnston, Alix Bickson, Cass Eppler, Sophia Gubernick, Virginia Mittnacht, Collier Searle, Olivia French, Betsy Neal, and Emma Kitchen.

spot." • **Bruce** and **Sue Heyer Byers** had a visit with Pat and **Alan Gould** when they came to their Cornwall elementary school to treat the students to their lively and engaging presentation about hearing and hearing loss. Sue adds, "Being a host family for an international Middlebury student is one of the delightful bonuses of living here. Our current two girls from China have become part of our family. They occasionally text us wanting to get off campus and hang out at our house for the weekend. (Sometimes they even make dinner.) The kids' maturity, their sense of and interest in 'the big world picture' would seem to bode well for the future." • **Janet Beem Frost** visited son Chris and family in Manassas, Va., and toured the new Museum of the Bible in D.C. "It's fabulous—five floors of history, beautifully displayed." She also attended a performance of *Hamilton* at Fox Theatre in Atlanta. "A magnificent show—Miranda deserves the Pulitzer he won." • **Emily Ernst Branscome** reports that she and Bill are still enjoying living in their home in Staunton, Va., where their year-old poodle, Charlie, keeps them busy, entertained and going strong. • **Junie Stringer DeCoster** is still painting and was included in a show at the Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis this past summer. She enjoys visits to her little house on the St. Croix River, thinking of "sweet days at Middlebury in a simpler time." • Two items of sad news: **Nancy Heiland Worthington** passed away February 24 in Brunswick, Maine. She is best remembered for her "brilliant multifaceted soul: playful, caring, educating, and dedicated to family and community." She and Dick '53 were married for 62 years. • **Rosina "Pinney" Chapin Cheney** died May 24 in Central Vermont. Among her many lifelong passions were politics, opera, travel, modern art, good friends, British television network comedies, the *Sunday Times*, and dogs. Both will be greatly missed.

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News came from **Sally Thomson Clark:** "I love reading all the news and I thought I should send you something! Tom and I have been back for two years in the Utica, N.Y., area at Preswick Glen, an independent living facility, and we still keep busy. I am still painting and had a solo show of 26 paintings at a gallery in Little Falls, N.Y., my hometown. Tom has been promoting early childhood education, writing many letters to the editor, etc. There are many activities at Preswick and in the community, where we check out Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute, full of great paintings and changing exhibits and an auditorium where we attend many performances, including the Met Opera on Saturday afternoons. Glimmerglass Opera is nearby for summer opera. Can't believe that on June 16 we celebrated 62 years of marriage! And I still love him. But what's not to love?!" • **Brad Sargent** writes, "I lost my wife, Ruth Haynes Sargent '59, last October shortly after we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. Ruth was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and I miss her very much. Together we raised our son, Bill, and daughter, Betsy. They have brought much joy to our lives as has our granddaughter and her three children. After graduating from Middlebury and going in the service, I earned a master's degree in student personnel administration at the Univ. of Miami. I worked in college admissions for more than 40 years, initially with Bill Trask '52 at Worcester Poly (WPI) and then moving on to universities in the South—Oglethorpe Univ. in Georgia, Univ. of Miami, Jacksonville Univ., and finally Northwood Univ. in West Palm Beach, where I served as the director of admissions until I officially retired in 2002. Since then I have continued to do some admissions work with Northwood on a consulting basis. Although it's been many years since I've been on the Middlebury campus, I have fond memories of my college years, the most important being meeting Ruth there. I no longer use a computer but welcome phone calls and would be delighted to hear from classmates. I can be reached at 941-697-5361. Do keep in mind that my legs don't move as quickly as they once did so it may take me longer to get to the phone to answer calls. If I miss your call, leave your name and number and I will get back to you. Best to all." • **Judy Phinney Stearns** shares, "Life keeps moving on, ready or not. Things break, get lost, kids come and go and hopefully don't get lost, but no matter how prepared or able, life keeps nudging ahead. And best we go with a positive attitude counting our blessings. No big trips but I did get to San Francisco and New Orleans for graduations this spring and to Charleston, S.C., for a very fun and different Christmas last year. I'm still as active as ever with the Y and one of their sleepover camps, where husband John went, as well as my three boys, and many of the grandchildren and nieces and nephews. And I plan to continue with the community chorus and tutoring in a small and wonderful inner city school in the fall. Fortunately, life is nudging me in a direction right for me. My best to all." • **Debbie Shepard Rinner** shares, "Although not much has changed, I'm still tutoring learners from other countries in speaking English. As a matter of fact, I have over 500 hours with Literacy for Life now. My latest students have been from Sudan and Venezuela! The world is a fascinating place and with all our problems here, they are clamoring to become citizens and get education here. I coordinate our book club (we call ourselves Words, Wit, and Wisdom) and we've read some great stuff: *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kanoie, and *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Bachman. There are more good books than we have time for. Williamsburg, Va., is a fascinating place to live and we are enjoying it. If any classmates would like to come visit this place, get in touch with me. Best to all." • In closing, we wish to express our condolences to the family of **Rolly Schopp**, who passed away in April. Special thoughts go to Rolly's widow, classmate **Bev Watkins Schopp.** An obituary appears in this magazine. • Do continue to send us news that you would like to share. It's always appreciated by one and all. Thanks very much!

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We send congratulations to **Ida Mae Johnson**, who was named the 2018 Citizen of the Year by the Poultney (Vt.) Area Chamber of Commerce recently. Her contributions to her community are numerous. She's a longtime member of the Poultney Women's Club, serving as president and working on promotional and organizational needs for its community events. An avid gardener, she often contributes floral arrangements and helps with pre-event planning and hands-on help at countless other community events. She has worked endlessly as a volunteer on projects and grants for needed repairs for historic properties in the area. Her expertise in writing grants is often sought after by others. A writer, she has written publicity releases and feature articles about Poultney's history and historic buildings and she also serves as the primary editor of the St. John's Church's Facebook pages. She was presented with the award at an Open House on October 21. • We are still looking for one or two people to take on the job of the class correspondent for 1957. It's a great way to stay in touch with classmates! If you are interested, contact Sara Marshall at smarshal@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5650.

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As you all know, this past June marked our 60th Reunion celebration at the beautiful College on the Hill. The following, contributed by **Sue Daniell Phillips**, is a wonderful summary of our weekend together with fellow classmates, spouses, and friends. "Hello, fellow '58s! We had a wonderful time at Reunion! I didn't count how many of us were there, but we recognized each other in spite of the years and found plenty to talk about. I'm pretty sure some of the memories were exaggerated but we also shared our current lives and all were interesting. The weather was ideal, the food delicious, the panels interesting and informative, and the company outstanding. **Barbara Bang Knowles** gave us an update on the potential use of modified stem cells to alleviate macular degeneration. **Milt Peterson** described his current projects in the D.C. area and, when coaxed, his extensive philanthropy. **Ro Roemmele Crowley** shared an episode of her children's TV show, and **John Cross** had a sculpture exhibit at the local museum and explained how he got from business school to sculpting. We re-

membered the 115 of our classmates who have died. And yes, **Carolyn Skyllberg Peterson** played for our sing-along. One of the best things was the opportunity to interact with current Middlebury students and be impressed (maybe overwhelmed) by their insights, their motivation, and their idealism. They were curious about Middlebury 60 years ago and astonished at the rules and regulations most of us followed without question. **Dick Johnson** was delighted to announce at the Saturday Convocation that we had reached our 60 percent participation goal for the class gift. It took a few last-minute phone calls but a big thank-you to all of you who gave. I know some of you were reluctant to do so because of the earlier rioting incident on campus. President Laurie Patton did not address this specifically but she described the many actions being taken by the College to address the divisions on campus. I was reassured by this and pleased that the College has been given a large grant by the Mellon Foundation in support of these efforts to promote civil discourse not only on campus but everywhere. The campus, like our country, is a very diverse place today, and everyone needs to heed President Patton's words referring to the Middlebury community: 'We remain connected and committed to each other even when we disagree.' I wish you all had been there. There were two Class of 1943 attendees at their 75th Reunion—let's aim for that." • An official announcement recently came from class agent **Dick Johnson**: "An incredible 65 percent of our class supported our Reunion gift, earning the coveted Gold Key Award. Of our 154 living classmates, 22 percent or 34 returned for the Reunion, which is a very high attendance record. Way to go, folks!" A big thank-you to Dick and his team for their untiring efforts re our award-winning class gift. We also are very indebted to **Ro Roemmele Crowley** and **Jerry Noonan** and their Reunion Committee for encouraging so many classmates to return and for planning such an interesting and delightful weekend. • A wonderful remembrance came from **Sonny Wilder**: "It's always great to reconnect every five years with (really) old friends. The years wash away. And it's also easy to become friendly with those we may have barely known or forgotten from back in our college days since we're all in the same boat now. The three-day program that was put together for our class was fantastic. It was moving and impressive to see members of the Class of '43 walk down the chapel aisle at the Convocation ceremony. Role models for us! And when it's sunny and in the '70s, as it was for Reunion Weekend, there's no more beautiful campus in the world to be on than Middlebury's." Thank you, Sonny. Certainly, the happiest of memories. • Some sentimental and sensitive thoughts came from **Deborah West Zipf** about her trip back to campus: "What could be bad about Reunion? Seven of us classmates in Hepburn Hall (On the men's campus! In the men's dormitory!) sat up late at night, catching up, remembering our days at Midd, mourning dear lost classmates, marveling/analyzing/assessing the changes in the country, the College, and our lives since that bright fall day we first set foot on campus in 1954. Bittersweet memories, lives steady and sure then, wishes that we could have done/had this or that, successes to rejoice in, failures unmentioned. The College today is foreign to me. I, who loved my American literature with a passion, missed it at Reunion, missed our professors, wanted only Vermont, the chapel, the old Starr Library, and my classmates." • We were saddened to learn that **Frank Hurt** passed on March 15. **Dick Johnson** sent us the following: "**Frank** was a Sig Ep and a star on Middlebury's ski team. His professional life was devoted to winter sports equipment and sales." Our condolences go out to his family. • With this issue of *Middlebury Magazine*, **Ellie Humme** completes her job as '58 co-correspondent. She has been a loyal and hard-working partner for several years, and she shall be missed. We are very fortunate and pleased, however, that **Sue Daniell Phillips** has agreed to assume Ellie's position. And so the work goes on.

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REUNION CLASS The big news is that our 60th Reunion is less than nine months away. The theme will be "Back to the Fifties" and we hope you will dress accordingly. The Beauty and the Beast, alias **Ailene Kane Rogers** and **Andy Montgomery**, may have some surprises for you. You will not want to miss it. More news in following issues. • **Lee Lonsdale Schaffer's** son sent this note. "Lee passed away last week after a battle with cancer over the past two years. We were all able to spend good time with her as the end approached. She certainly loved her Middlebury time and always shared memories." • **Don Freeman** is pursuing his third career (did we miss #2?) as a singer with the Da Camera Singers in Amherst, Mass., performing three masses (by Josef Rheinberger, Johannes Ockeghem, and Ralph Vaughan Williams) and the Verdi *Requiem* with the Keene (N.H.) Chorale. "I got by my 80th, I've had 56 years of marriage (48 with the current wife), and otherwise, I'm just trying to stay out of trouble." • **Barb Hart Decker** writes, "Greetings to all my classmates. I am doing well and am still doing my torn wallpaper artwork. I will be in a big art show, which you jury into each year, and I'm glad to be in it for my 12th year. You are right that the notes we read in the magazine keep us connected after all these years. Best to all!" • **Dave Harpp** already has the Reunion on his schedule and is still full time at McGill Univ., doing administration and teaching. "Four years ago, two colleagues and I put together a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) with edX on the topic of food, which is now available to McGill students. Last semester we had 1,600 taking the course online but taking exams in the old traditional way." • **Dave Riccio** will be retiring as a faculty member in the Department of Psychological Sciences as of May 2019, completing some 54 years at Kent State Univ. "To mark the occasion on the early side, I gave an honorary 'Last Lecture' in early June as part of the department's alumni reunion, celebrating 50 years since awarding our first PhD. One of my former grad students introduced me and was kind enough to mention how important my Middlebury education was to me." • **Martha Gerhart** writes, "Leyerle Publications recently published the final volume of my three volumes of *Italian Song Texts from the 17th to the 20th Centuries*. Volume I was published in 2000! The books contain original texts of Italian songs, IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols, word-for-word translations, and idiomatic translations, intended mostly for singers, voice teachers, and music libraries. I enjoyed every minute of working on it and am proud to have completed it before my 80th birthday (in August)! Otherwise, I'm proving that getting old isn't for sissies. With greetings and best wishes to all!" • **Dick Krasker** made the big trip north to Fryeburg, Maine, this summer and enjoyed the flowering trees and the momma bear and three cubs sleeping outside the front door (so he took the dog out the back door). He loves his new neighbors. Reservations are all made at the Middlebury Inn for Reunion. (Andy note: What is wrong with a dorm room?) • **Carolyn Parks Behr** and husband Bob celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June with all their progeny (two children, two grandchildren) and a few close friends, including **Granthia Lavery Preston**, who was in their wedding in 1968. Carolyn and Bob were looking forward to a Road Scholar trip to Malta this October to learn more about that fascinating crossroads of the Mediterranean. Carolyn and a friend are planning a trip to Morocco in February. • **Les McDowell** retired from L.L. Bean and now enjoys the summer at his cottage in South Bristol, Maine. Lots of projects, put off over the years, are now getting attention. • **Robine Andrau** says, "Several of my ex-in-laws (ex-laws or out-laws?) either are or have just turned 80 so we're having an octogenarian blast, including a band—I plan to be dancing with my walker! On a sober note, I'm sick about what is happening politically and plan to do what I can about the upcoming election." • In the spring **Fred Swan** and wife Pat were on the road again, taking a trip to Ireland. They traveled up the west coast to Galway, then to Donegal, and back to Dublin. • **Barbara Samson Thompson** writes, "My sister, Deborah, and I went to visit my youngest son, Seth, and his wife, Karen, in Rockland, Maine. We celebrated my 81st birthday. Seth and Karen spend the summer there as the UAE, where they live, is very hot in the summer. We then went to visit our brother, Earl '55, and his wife, Susan, in Little Compton, R.I. We also enjoyed seeing Earl's grandson and my grandnephew, Max Celander '21. A wonderful birthday celebration in

SARA THURBER MARSHALL
Meet the Alumni Editor

1 My father, Harris Thurber, was a professor of political science at Middlebury for 33 years. My mother, Betty Thurber, taught and supervised in the Education Dept. I was an official "fac brat."

2 The Rosebud Café was a popular place in my formative years in Middlebury. We often went there as teens and college students. I even worked as a waitress and bartender there after college.

3 As a fac brat, I avoided Middlebury and went to Bucknell. With an obsession about Italy, I spent my junior semester abroad in Florence, studying art history and attending football (soccer) matches. I graduated as an English major, without a job. See above re Rosebud.

4 After receiving an MEd, I taught third and fourth grades at Buckingham Browne and Nichols in Cambridge, Mass. This elephant was a gift from a student whose family was from India.

5 In high school and college, I worked six summers at Bread Loaf. I eventually attended one summer as a student. While deciphering Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey" was torturous, I thoroughly enjoyed 19th-Century British Literature.

6 In-between stints of class notes and inserting en and em dashes into College publications, I love traveling with my family, shown here on Mt. Rainier.

Sara is the editor and writer for the Class Acts section. She is also the College style-guide guru and oversees the copyediting and proofreading in the Communications Dept.

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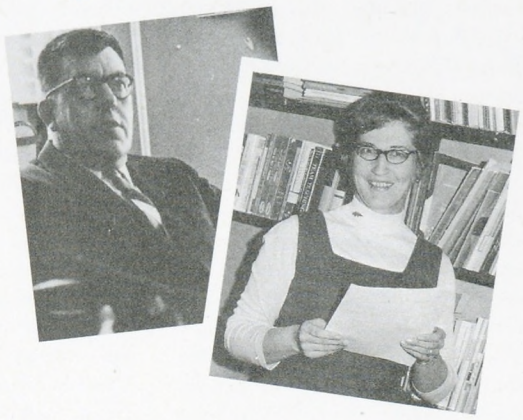

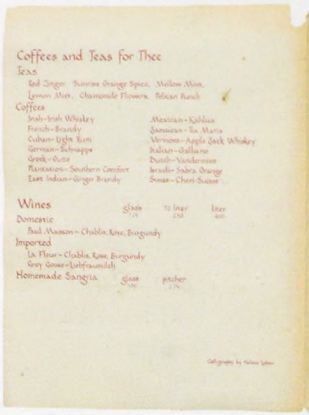

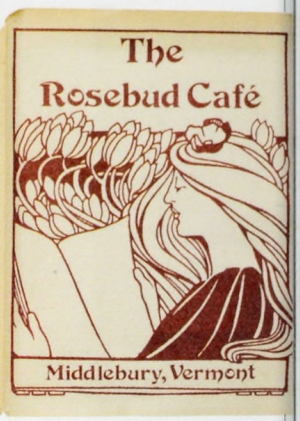

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all." • **Don Collier** wants to remind us that he may be our oldest classmate as he was a returning vet so he's approaching 84. He envies his younger classmates. He and Pat (McCoy) '58 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 63!

—Class Correspondents: Millicent Fairhurst (milfair@earthlink.net), 341 East 19th St, 1C, New York, NY 10003; Lucy Paine Kezar (lucypainekezar@myfairpoint.net), 134 Main St., Kingston, NH 03848; Andy Montgomery (joyandym@aol.com), 8910 Hilloway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

60 Congratulations to our classmate **Bill Stritzler**, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters at Midd's 2018 Commencement! Managing director and owner of Smuggler's Notch Resort, he was cited for "redefining what a Vermont ski area can be, and for having a positive impact on the state's economy and environment." As noted in a past column, Bill was named Citizen of the Year by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce in 2016 for his commitment and support for economic growth, corporate social responsibility, and environmental stewardship in the state. • **Diane Keegan Curran** has been a docent at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, N.H., for 10 years now; she is still enjoying it and is now giving classes to the docents. Last year she spent a nice weekend in Portland, Maine, with **Deb Wetmore** and **Linda Farr Macgregor**. • **Mike Closson** is still doing some consulting, helping cities in the San Francisco Bay Area reduce their carbon emissions. He and wife Catherine enjoyed two weeks of hiking in the beautiful mountains of Slovenia in the spring. • Checking in from Rhode Island, **Graham Nye** shares that their travel is now limited to New England. Wife Jackie has been very active in the Rhode Island and Connecticut Rose Societies, growing award-winning roses and taking award-winning photos. Graham is just ending a five-year term as treasurer of First Unitarian Church of Providence and also serves as treasurer for the South County History Center. He and Jackie are both committed to working for gun control legislation and marriage equality. • **Caroline Vinciguerra Cassels** traveled so much during her 40s, 50s, 60s, and even her 70s that she has decided enough is enough and she'll just tend her gardens, which she loves to do. She's also hooked on LifeLong Learning. Her four sons have all been extremely successful and she counts herself fortunate that three of them are close by in Chester County, Pa., and one is in Vienna, Va., which is only two hours away! • **Ralph Cobb** reports that he and June are moderating their exotic travel habit and feeling blessed by their current Florida Snowbird rhythm—splitting each year between warm months in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and winters golfing in Sarasota, Fla. It's easy for them to tool over to Middlebury for a couple of visits annually—a football Saturday in the fall and a spring golfing weekend. Ralph was looking forward to escorting a couple of rising-senior grandkids on an admissions tour of the College over Columbus Day weekend! • Still traveling is **Leon Vancini**, who sent us the following update: "Billed as 'My Big, Fat Italian Vancini Family Vacation' (with T-shirts to match), a group of 21 including wives, daughters, sons, nephews, nieces, girlfriends, boyfriends, and two stray 'blue heads' filled a villa on a working farm in Tuscany for one week. It was also a premature by four months celebration of my 80th. Elegant villa in spectacular setting made it difficult to return to the U.S. after touring vineyards and six hill towns." • In May **Lee Farnham** went on a 10-day geology and birding camping trip to southeast Arizona called Flocks and Rocks. Organized by the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, Thoreau, N.M. (his camp in the early '50s), the group gathered in Tucson and drove to a variety of locations to see the bird life and geology, and to learn the history. They camped at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (west of Tucson) and then worked their way back to the Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains before ending at Kartchner Caverns State Park, east of Tucson. His birding-life list grew by about 20 species, and the geology they saw and hiked through, and the remoteness of where they were, was very relaxing. Lee planned to retire as of July 31 and adds, "Stay tuned for further details." • Closing with two sad notes, our condolences to **Loey Boon Hill**, whose beloved partner of 12 years, Allen Stillman, died on February 20. Many classmates may remember meeting Allen at Midd hockey and football games and other functions, including our 50th and 55th class reunions. After a teaching and guidance career, Allen chose to retire to Middlebury, where he engaged in his lifelong volunteer work with a variety of organizations. • And we extend our deep sympathy to **Sherm Russ**, whose dear wife, Bonnie (Boyd) '62 died on March 31. Bonnie was an outstanding student and leader at Middlebury and continued a life built around family and friends in Hingham, Mass., where she and Sherm raised their family of four children, and then later in Florida. Her dedicated community service always found ways to help others in times of need.

—Class Correspondents: Jean Seeler-Gifford (jeandave@mindspring.com), 10 Merchants Row, Apt. 330, Middlebury, VT 05753; Vcevy Strekalovsky (vcevy@strekalovskyarchitecture.com), 47 Fearing Rd., Hingham, MA 02043; Nancy Mumford Mulvey (nandonmulv@gmail.com), 104 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810.

61 Well, you answered the call big time! Your class correspondent had to edit for length because there were so many submissions. Maybe this will spur on the rest of you to send in a tidbit or two. • When **John Williams** wrote, he was about to complete his tour of duty as treasurer of Sarasota (Fla.) Gulf Gate Rotary. He won't be without something to do as he continues as secretary-treasurer of Cabiri Chapter 179 (Past Potentates Assoc.) Sahib Shriners Sarasota. John's daughter Jennifer lives in Albuquerque and daughter Laura is in South Burlington, Vt. Son Marcus, retired from the Marine Corps, is stationed with the State Department in Africa. Tor lives in Parrish, Fla., not far from John except for the traffic. As of this writing John was planning trips to Havana, Albuquerque, Vermont, Lake Placid, and Morocco. • **Hugh Weisman** has divided loyalties. His granddaughter, Annie Sullivan, is a midfielder and an All-American on the Tufts women's lacrosse team. Hugh says, "It's always a test when they play Middlebury, but in the end, I'm rooting for Tufts. (They lost to Middlebury last spring, 15–10). And my grandson, Timmy Sullivan, graduated from UVM." Hugh is still plugging along with his architectural practice in New York, and wife Suzy is continuing her psychoanalytical work. They are starting to think about semiretiring next year and moving full time to Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Although Hugh's running days are over, he is still organizing the Chilmark Road Race, now in its 41st year with an entry cap of 1,600 runners. Hugh and Suzy enjoy traveling and they try to have a family trip every three or four years. This year they were planning an eight-night road trip to the Piemonte, Cinque Terre, and Emilia-Romagna in northern Italy. Hugh says, "I'm looking forward to our 60th in a few years. Hopefully, we're all still around and in good health." • **Sandy Anderson Bolton** says, "The years fly by," which was prompted by her attendance at graduations for her two oldest grandsons, Nick from Univ. of Colorado, and Alex from Cherry Creek High School in Denver. Graduation was followed by the boys' choice of a cruise to Russia as a family celebration trip before they launch into their new ways of life later this summer with Alex to the Univ. of Colorado and Nick to the "real world." This was Sandy's first cruise and she says, "At our age, it's always nice to have another 'first' on the horizon." • **John Harris** and son Charles participated in the Great Race, an annual event covering about 2,300 miles with vintage cars from 1972 or older. This year's race started in Buffalo on June 21 and ended in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 1 with 150 cars participating. John and Charles drove a 1937 Packard convertible that has been in the family since 1959. The goal is to arrive at checkpoints on time, following the route at specified average speeds. No GPS was allowed. The Harris team finished ninth out of 35 rookie teams and 48th overall. They also got three "aces," which means they reached a checkpoint exactly on time. John adds, "Life is good with Koko Hart Harris '63 and me traveling and enjoying our three adult children and families, particularly the four grandchildren." • **Alice Cooper Rasilla** reports she is living in a suburb of Madrid near her two daughters and their families. • **Bob Coe** came out of retirement in 2003 to work for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in their retail sales of wine and spirits. It turned into a 13-year third career after teaching and international sales and

marketing. In December 2016 Bob had open-heart surgery to replace his aortic valve and they performed a bypass of his right coronary artery. He reports, "These days I'm as fit as a fiddle." Bob and wife Mary Ann have been grappling with getting rid of things that have been accumulating over the years. As many of us have experienced, they do pretty well most of the time until they come across a box of photographs, which usually shoots the rest of their decluttering session! They are planning a move to a retirement community, Kirkland Village, in Bethlehem, Pa. They're looking forward to the chance to travel in the United States and see more of their children and families. • **Paul Palermino** closed his law office in Boston about six years ago but has continued working from his home office for longtime clients. He quickly adds that he doesn't "do anything that might involve 'heavy lifting.'" Paul has four children and seven grandchildren. He travels mainly to California, Florida, and North Carolina to see family and friends. When not traveling, he enjoys yoga and "eating to live." • **George Logan** says at 79 he is "still healthy, still working out. I can remember the lyrics to songs that were popular 60 years ago, but occasionally forget what the mission is that sent me to the garage." He is working with a friend and former partner developing upscale multifamily properties in markets a day's drive or less from Atlanta. Adopt a Golden in Atlanta takes up George's volunteer time. They work with golden retrievers who have lost their homes. Other time is devoted to family: one son, three daughters, and six grandchildren. He says during football season it is hard to remember which sweatshirt to wear with two Georgia, one Alabama, and one Iowa alum in the family. • Last spring, **Melinda Geldert Nicholson** accompanied her sister to Florida from her home in Anchorage. On her way back to Alaska, she stopped in Portland, Ore., to visit **Priscilla "Dilla" Lane**. Melinda was found hanging out on the sidewalks of Portland with 299,999 other people watching the Rose City's Starlight Parade. Dilla and her trombone were marching by in the One More Time Around Again Marching Band. Melinda said, "It was a wonderful parade! *Everything* was lit up: band instruments, costumes, dancers' feet and fingertips, the 'flaming' ukulele (or was it a bagpipe?) played by the unicyclist, everything!" Melinda and Dilla also attended a choral concert by choirs of the Portland State Univ. School of Music. Melinda, who's been singing with the Anchorage Concert Chorus since 1974, is always happy to hear music, both choral and instrumental. The "Global Rhythms" performance represented many cultures, and the powerful ending placed all of the performers in a circle around the circumference of the hall, wrapping the entire audience in "The Circle of Life" from *The Lion King*. Melinda and Dilla send greetings from the Great Northwest to all of you. • **Jeff Foran** says his first novel was just published and is available on Amazon. The title is *Angels on a Tombstone*. The novel also has a Facebook page. In other news, Jeff and wife Karen biked the Rhine River from Basel to Amsterdam. Joining them were Davis '63 and Louise Gulick '64 Van Winkle and Debbie Gillette Law '64 and husband Bob. • Sadly, **Linny Faxon** reported that wife Diane passed away on May 17. Diane was a staunch supporter of Middlebury, especially because their daughters Krista '86, Julianne '88, and Marlena '92 are all Middlebury graduates as are grandsons Stephen Seymour '14 and Meade Atkeson '15.

—Class Correspondent: Janet S. Reed (jsreed2800@me.com), 929 W. Foster Ave., #2620, Chicago, IL 60640.

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Rob Donner writes, "I was saddened to see the deaths of **Steve Green** (my freshman year roommate), **Bill Jackson** (my fraternity brother), and **Bonnie Boyd Russ** (wife of Sherm '60, another DU). I figured before my time comes (not really that funny), I could add some info to the class column, so here goes. After spending over 45 years in Livingston, N.J., where we raised three sons (the closest I got to a Midd student was #3 going to UVM) and where I commuted daily to Wall Street, my wife and I have decided to plant our roots on Kiawah Island, outside of Charleston, S.C. Yet another chapter in our lives! For anyone who has not done so, Charleston is a must on your bucket list!" • **Jane MacFarlane** reports, "I have just moved from Michigan (Pleasant Ridge) to Worcester, Mass., following my daughter and her kid with no shame whatsoever. I lived in Detroit for nine years because I moved there to be with her (and her wonderful son) after my cute husband, Dick Smith, succumbed to cancer in 2006. This time I only waited a few months before buying a house here and selling my perfect house in PR. I have downsized again and am currently opening boxes dreading finding the stuff in them that I probably should have thrown out. Anyhow, I gave away ALL my books (not the as yet unread ones) feeling very brave and reckless, packed up my scripts and my puppy and came away. I had a great nine years in Michigan. I did lots of theater, which included big parts *with many words* and even some awards. I also worked on costumes and did some staged readings. I was so-o-o-o lucky to be busy and finished out the year with *Company* by Sondheim in May at a lovely little professional theatre in the neighborhood called the Ringwald. I'm really happy to be back in the East. I hope all you Midd Kids will come and see us, because I'm pretty sure **Beverly Hensel Glen** will be here one of these days, maybe even for good! Imagine being lucky enough to live with your roommate 60 years later! We'll be taking to the road together and we hope to see you all! (I'm speaking for her but that won't surprise you at all.) **Chris Baker** and I have been divorced since 1980 but we are still good friends and I have accumulated 13 grandkids and many granddogs as well." • *Ed. note:* We'd like to apologize to **Nora "Scotti" Wright** for calling her Scotti Stephens in the summer issue! A glitch in our database listed her as **Mary-Sue Stephens Wright** when the name Scotti Wright was put in the system. So the maiden name of Stephens was used when it should have been Wright. The glitch will be fixed! (And if Mary-Sue would like to send in a class note, we'd gladly print it!)

—Class Correspondents: Judy Bosworth Roësset (jbozroesset@aol.com), 8809 Mariscal Canyon Dr., Austin, TX 78759; Liza Dunphy Fischer (betsy@brentopalmer.com), 611 Oakland Ave., Iowa City, IA 52240; Anne Thornton Bridges (aaabridges@comcast.net), 2119 Sunrise Circle, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

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Reunion was a grand success. We are told that our 55th turnout was the best ever! Midd '63 spirit! Sixty-six attendees plus, we suspect, several drop-ins. The weather was fantastic. We marveled at how smoothly the College staff handled the complex logistics of such a large multi-reunion event—especially after a very short rest period following graduation. From phone calls and emails, correspondents **Janie Bachelder Johnson** and **Chris White** heard similar praises. Back years ago as students we witnessed this same "can-do" attitude developed by a caring college/town community. • Considering that many of us were en route to Middlebury, the Friday afternoon "Love, Hate, and Reconciliation in the Public Sphere" class discussion, led by Professor Jon Isham, was well attended. We are told that the outcome of the discussion was a greater awareness of one's own "self-acceptance." Some of us late Friday afternoon attended the 1800 Society and volunteer reception in the sports center and heard President Laurie Patton explain the College vision and mission statements. That evening, our celebration dinner was held at Jessica's Restaurant in the Swift House. Good food, drink, and extended conversations were the order. We also took time to memorialize 55 classmates who are no longer with us. Strangely, 55 years have passed. After dinner, we all went our separate ways, but we hear that some gathered to star watch. Saturday and Sunday mornings we gathered with folks from other classes for sumptuous breakfasts in the student dining hall, yielding many "cross-class" encounters. Saturday morning some of us took in a very well-attended multiclass panel called "The Middlebury Experience: What Endures and How It Evolves," led by President Patton, which invoked a spirited discourse. After lunch, class members **Lyn Wilkins Green**, **Craig Stewart**, **Bill Delahunt**, **Janet MacLaughlin Hooper**, and **Charles MacCormack** led a "Purposeful Life Panel," which broke into refreshing smaller discussion groups. Afterwards we adjourned for the class picture, an ice cream social, and Convocation. If you have been to reunions in the past, then you know that Convocation is readily enhanced with the pounding of canes. This year was no different. It was a thrill to walk in with our 1963 banner. I (**Janie**) remember thinking years ago I would never be in the 55th reunion group. It happens! Each Reunion class is

represented by a speaker—two minutes allowed—and I was pleased to be able to do that for our class. Of course, ours was the most unique class, so I spoke to that and how we did it without cell phones, computers, or plastics! Our very own **Chris White** was given an award as outstanding class correspondent—so very well deserved and long overdue! The final dinner and fireworks behind the Mahaney Center for the Arts were marvelous as always and this year the college dean of weather really performed. It was ideal. Because of this, Chris and I will be back at our 60th and will probably start very soon reminding you all. There is just an absolute strength in the hills that is a joy to come back to. Kudos to our new president, Laurie Patton, and the amazing alumni staff (in the case of 1963, Lyn DeGraff), the bright-eyed student hosts, and all of the Middlebury family for continuing to make it so easy for us to have this time to remember. On behalf of the class, Chris and I thank you all. And now here it is: SAVE THE DATE—June 9, 2023!

—Class Correspondents: Janie Bachelder Johnson (petesgirl1222@gmail.com), PO Box 445, Manchester, VT 05254; Christopher J. White (crnbrycst@gmail.com), 347 Duck Cove Rd., Bucksport, ME 04416.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: We learned that **Thomas Gerber**, who was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi, passed away on February 27 at age 75. He was described as feeling at home in the mountains and nature, and spending most of his life in Summit County, Colo., where he loved to ski and hike. His dog, Scout, was his faithful companion on daily hikes during his last several years. He valued learning and was always open to new ideas, thinking outside the box and loving a challenge. Tom's curiosity led him to research a wide range of subjects, including health, community, business, team building, transportation, spirituality, and philosophy. He excelled at teaching and inspired his friends through his natural gift of creativity, humor, optimism, and kindness. • Bob Dylan once sang, "The times they are a-changin'." He couldn't have been more prescient about the time since November 2016. In particular, the trashing of our longtime allies, especially our good neighbor to the north, "that threat to our national security" Canada. When thinking about whom I should speak to for this magazine issue, it only seemed right that I look north to find a classmate from Canada. The rest was easy. I've always liked talking with **Peter Wood**, even if infrequently. So, I called him. And, here's what I've learned. Surprise, surprise, Peter was actually born in Cambridge, Mass. However, he moved to Canada in 1967 after serving in the Army and obtained dual citizenship in 2003, when he could do so without revoking his U.S. citizenship. He noted that dual citizenship was allowed after 1988, but it took him a bit of time to make the plunge. Workwise, Peter joined Liberty Mutual and ended up in Toronto. He loved it to the point that when he was asked to move elsewhere several years later, he refused. He worked at a number of other insurance companies before deciding to become a broker and several of his large clients were ski resorts. Peter took full advantage. Another insurance client was a large Pakistani bakery that supplied breads to a variety of area supermarkets. When Peter decided to get out from behind a desk and retire, he negotiated a deal and went to work for the bakery making deliveries of products among other things. He liked the change and says it was great to get out and be on the road in the Toronto region. Unfortunately, Peter developed lung cancer and even had part of his lung removed, but his positive attitude helped him overcome the frustration, and the Canadian health system covered the multitude of medical costs. Peter made clear that the Canadian system is not free. Everyone pays, but it keeps costs down as long as everyone joins. He now refers to walking and breathing at the same time as multitasking. He has been able to do volunteer pro bono work with Meals on Wheels and St. Paul's Church in order to give something back to others. Commendable. Peter met his longtime partner, John, in 1970, and thanks to the greater Canadian tolerance toward gay marriage, they were married about 10 years ago. It was fun talking with Peter and discussing the differences between Canada and the U.S. on such matters as health care, the need for cooperation among longtime allies, tariffs, and even Justin Trudeau. Peter's probably not able to make the trip to our 55th Reunion, but I'm glad for the opportunity to get updated about him and to share our discussion with all our classmates. He's a really good guy. • Correspondent **Dori Ells Jurgenson** reports: **Joan Smith** is serving as interim minister at South Parish Congregational Church, UCC, in Augusta, Maine. She relates that she was ordained late in life, 20 years ago, and has served several small churches in Vermont and Maine, the most fun ones on islands under Maine Seacoast Mission. She adds, "I ran a retreat house (Healing Soup) in Rockland, Maine, as well, and have offered spiritual direction and been hospice chaplain. I'm ready to focus more directly on the greatest needs, which is where the deepest learning occurs. I'm exploring street ministry and/or counseling at an LGBTQ center, maybe in Portland rather than midcoast Maine." She and **Ann Messick Dunlevy** planned the memorial service for our 50th Reunion and she deeply regrets being unable to attend. Maybe the 55th, Joan? In other news, she reports, "My daughter Heidi and son Eric, who I had with **Chuck Johnson**, are living in Maryland and San Francisco, and two grandsons, ages 11 and 14, are the loves of my life. Our family has been experiencing the learning that goes with LGBT, especially transgender, identities, for which I am deeply grateful. I'm also trying to finish a book on research into my mother's homicide, as well as another based on interviews about personal experiences of non-church callings. Middlebury was a good foundation, for which I am grateful." • From Heathsville, Va., **Alice Taliak Imbur** writes, "It was very nice to finally meet up with **Eliot Levinson** and wife Bryna Brennan. They live quite close to me, though I didn't know it until this spring! Don and I spent the wonderful month of June on board our RV with our seven-year-old granddaughter, River, visiting several National Parks in Tennessee and Kentucky. Opportunities for young children to become Junior Rangers are available to encourage them to learn about the importance of National Parks in general and to study the specific one they are in. River earned six Junior Ranger badges and proudly took the oaths to protect our parks and our environment."

—Class Correspondents: Bob Baskin (robertbaskin@msn.com), 34 Otter Trail, Westport, CT 06880; Dori Ells Jurgenson (dorothea.jurgenson@uni.edu), 106 Orchard Circle, Denver, IA 50622.

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Lauren Van Buskirk Pike writes, "I'm proud to report our granddaughter, Hailey Lauren Kent, from Roswell, Ga., is a happy sophomore at Middlebury, thus making her the third generation to have attended or graduated from Midd. Since retiring in 2001 from the UVM College of Medicine, I've been enjoying, with husband Ned, summers on Lake Champlain and winters in Longboat Key, Fla. Our five children and spouses and nine grandchildren, ranging in age from one to 22, join us every year for a family reunion week at our cottage near Basin Harbor, Vt."

—Class Correspondents: R.W. "T" Tall Jr. (ahmic29@gmail.com), 204 Clark Rd., Cornwall, VT 05753; Polly Moore Walters (polly@frii.com), 100 Grandview Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

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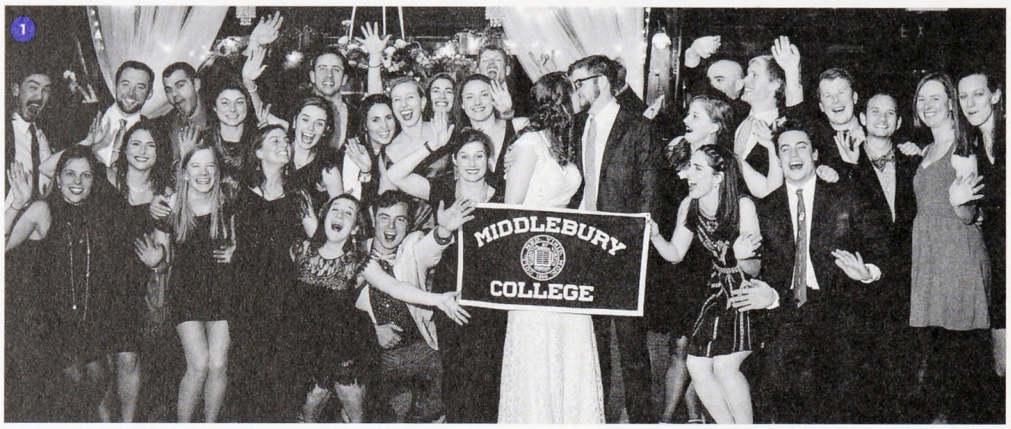
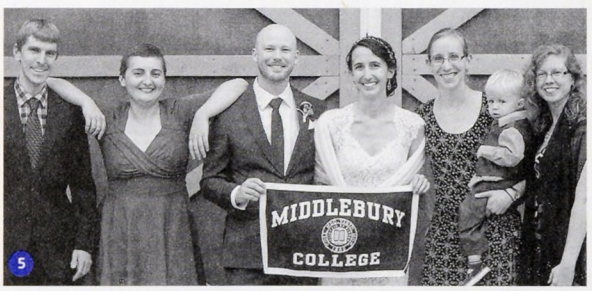
Since our last column, we've learned that our class has lost **Erle Morse**, **Louise Pike Leach**, and **Carolyn Sharp Hamilton**. Please let Prue or Francine know if you would like to share memories of them. **Richard McKerr** let us know that **Erle** had died late last year. Prue and Francine remember him as a highly regarded skier while at Middlebury. In our class list, Erle appears as founder and advertising manager of *Summertime in the Belgrades*, a local newspaper in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. He was also a successful ski coach over the years at the schools where he taught. • **Louise** was originally from Rhode Island and graduated from the University of Rhode Island after her time with us at Middlebury. She had two daughters, Lisa and Leslie, and apparently was living in East Greenwich, R.I., at the time of her death. • **Carol Sue Tarbox Tombari** wrote to tell us about **Carolyn**'s passing and shared some memories: "Carolyn was my roommate for two years at Midd, but she was my friend for the rest of our lives. When we graduated, she scored the perfect job for a geography major: she was hired by AT&T's Long Lines division



1 Surrounded by wonderful Midd friends, Jocelyn Remmert '13 and Stephen Lammers '13 were married by officiant Jeff Dobronyi '13 at the Old Lantern Barn in Charlotte, Vt., on December 31, 2017: (all '13 unless noted) Colby Gibbs Kraszewski, Kendrick Campbell, Caroline Goodwin '14, Maddy Boston, Julia Favorito '14, Nathan Kowalski '15, Lindsay Kingston '14, the newlyweds, Lucy Wagner, Bradley Osborn, (second row) Patrick Adelstein '14, Brendan Scully, Davis Whitehead, Erin Rea '16, Elizabeth Foody '14, Matthew Grossman, Hannah Newman, Sophie Kligler '15, Rachel Madding, Scarlett Kirk '14, Jeff Dobronyi, Amy Schlueter, Oliver Sutro '14, Karl Benz, Eric Roberts, Matthew Whitley, Sama Winder '11, and Mackenzie Stewart. 2 Ted King '05 married Laura Spencer November 18, 2017, at the Boulder (Colo.) Museum of Contemporary Art. Midd alums who attended include (all '05 unless noted) Emily Peterson '08, Ainsley Close, Chris Eaton '99, Eliza Cameron Eaton, the newlyweds, Brent Levy, and Heidi Erbe Dotterer '06. 3 At the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, in January, several Midd alumni were present to watch and to race. Four Midd Carnival champions got together for a photo: Garrott Kuzzy '06, Jim Renkert '81, Ben Lustgarten '14, and Alice Tower Knapp '81.



4 Middlebury alumni played in a Middlesex School alumni lacrosse game honoring the coaching career of Ned Herter: Bill Driscoll '91, Rob Borden '04, Jimmy Reilly '89, and Aaron Herter '06. 5 Alison Mehravari '10 and Sean Gorton were married on September 9, 2017, in Lake Stevens, Wash. They celebrated with Middlebury friends Scott Wehrwein '10, Hannah Robertson '10, the newlyweds, Lizzie Gordon '09 with Leo, and Hannah Washington '08.

and, after a few years, was dispatched to the Far East and other exotic locations—paid to see the world. It doesn't get much better than that for geographers. It was through AT&T that Carolyn met Tom Hamilton, the love of her life and longtime husband and companion. Both were able to retire early, continuing to see the world and contributing to the arts/crafts community in their newfound hometown, Punta Gorda, Fla. Both Tom and Carolyn have been leaders in their community for years and have enjoyed enduring friendships as well as respect for their talent and tenacity." Tom sent us the obituary he had written for Carolyn. He notes that in retirement, "as a member of Punta Gorda Methodist Church, Carolyn participated in two mission trips to Cuba. As an artist, Carolyn was an avid beader and founding member of Visual Arts Center Common Threads. She created jewelry art to donate to charitable fundraisers and enjoyed knitting and needlepoint. Carolyn delighted in beautiful textiles sought out during her travels." • **Glenn Govertsen** sent us a clipping from the May 13 *Missoulian* about **Gary Bevington**'s family donating some of his collection to the Missoula (Mont.) Public Library. Among the items are framed reprints of 11 period maps from 1780–1870 depicting the various territorial boundaries of what eventually became Montana. Gary's family also donated a reprinted portrait of James Mitchell Ashley, the third governor of the Territory of Montana, from April 1869 to July 1870. The items will reside in the Audra Browman Research Room. Library patrons can access them by searching "Gary Bevington Map Collection." • **Joan Hartnett Ottaway** sends her regards. She is unable to run these days due to her balance being poor, but she says that she has many fond memories of competing. "The most enjoyable," she writes, "were the WAVA World Track and Field events that husband Steve and I went to in many different parts of the world—Australia, Finland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom were particularly pleasurable." Highlights were meeting new friends and traveling in the country after events. Joan says, "I'm particularly proud of my results in the Buffalo WAVA World T&F event in 1995. The conditions were appalling (almost 100 degrees), but my 10k time of 38.29 as a 51-year-old was the fastest of all the women, including the 35-year-olds! I also won the 10k cross-country, 5k (18.34), and 2k steeplechase (8.16). Steve and I always believed in training, racing, and playing hard and in setting goals and doing everything in our power to achieve them. Those times were a lot of fun and we look back on them with great pleasure. We lived very hard and try to do so even now that we are Old Farts." • "Life is moving quickly with our oldest grand in college and our youngest less than two years old!" reports **Judy Nothnagle Reynolds.** "Great fun! Blessed with our 50th wedding anniversary this year, and my husband's 55th college reunion—ours will be here soon!" • Prue remembered that **Jineen Summerton** had worked at Kendall Jackson in California. Jineen filled us in with

some details: "I worked for a wine tour company until I retired in October 2016. Since then, I have worked part time (read that 'when I feel like it') as a tour guide or as a wine country concierge, creating wine tour itineraries. I enjoy it, and the income is welcome." Jineen has had a busy personal life lately. Her daughter was married in December to her longtime beau, and her son was married in April to his longtime girlfriend. Both weddings were local and very different. "In between," Jineen writes, "I went to France for 10 days with friends and my sister. While there, I was able to schedule a very poignant meeting with members of my French family, whom I had lived with as a high school exchange student. We've kept in touch over the years." Jineen says that Napa and Sonoma Valleys are slowly recovering from the fires last October, but the healing will take years. "Personally," she writes, "my children and I were not touched, but we all have friends who lost everything. The response of the community has been tremendously heartening." • **John** and **Sue Glazier Swartz** also let us know what they have been up to. John writes, "Sue spent the spring doing extensive gardening and landscaping around the house and the yards. She frequently gets compliments on her efforts from townsfolk. When she isn't planting and volunteering, she is raising two (huge) Maine Coon cats. Barely over a year old, and they're approaching 20 pounds each. My life changed last October. We were halfway to Hawaii on a cruise ship when I had a major heart attack. And being over a thousand miles from any land, there was no evac. The excellent medical staff kept me alive for the 2.5 days it took to get to the hospital in Maui. Because of the delay, there is some permanent damage, which limits what and how much I can do. (Picture a Ford F150 trying to run on a four-cylinder engine from an old Yugo, and you get the idea.) But I tell people that I am going to do as much as I can, as well as I can, for as long as I can, and treat every day as special. This has curtailed our traveling this year, so we're pouring that money into some extensive improvements for our 1848 house, like a new furnace and having the driveway finally paved." • **Lee Hall Delfausse**'s book *Snow Sanctuary* is out! You can find it online.

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John Plant writes, "Last October, my 'Earthsea' Sonata, inspired by the writings of Ursula Le Guin, had its premiere in Halifax. I had written to Ursula Le Guin to let her know about this project and to ask her if she would like a CD of the performance. I did not get my hands on the recording until late in December, and I sent it along. Then on January 22 I learned that she had died; in addition to mourning a beloved artist who had been a strong presence in my imaginative life since I'd discovered her in the early 1970s, I was quite sad to think that she never heard the sonata. Two days later I received a beautiful handwritten card from her in the mail. It said *Dear John Plant—Thank you for the recording of your Earthsea Sonata. The music is beautiful, and the performance is stunning. It's a treasure. Many thanks for your music—may you keep making it. Ursula Le Guin.* I was deeply moved, honored, and humbled. It's been a busy year musically. I've just finished a major work for percussion and piano, *Three Echoes of the Odyssey*, for which I received a Canada Council grant. Last spring, Coastal Voices, the men's choir that I accompany, premiered my setting of *Voices Answering Back: The Vampires* by Lawrence Raab '68; and this spring they performed my new arrangement of the old whaling song 'Rolling Down to Old Maui.' And yet another version of *Faustus*—a suite for sax, guitar, and piano—premiered on July 10 in Zagreb, Croatia, as part of the World Saxophone Congress. In nonmusical news, Jocelyne has a beautiful new e-bike, which she loves (a Benelli). As she can no longer drive, this provides mobility as well as exercise. I also have a new bicycle, the nicest I've ever owned—a Kona Penthouse. Our cycling had been languishing and we are hopeful that it will revive with these acquisitions. The 50th Reunion was a peak experience, poignantly ephemeral as these occasions must be, but also lots of fun. It was wonderful to reconnect with everyone." • Correspondent **Peter Kovner** gives an update on classmate and sailor **Joe Weber**: "Winding up the Spring Sunset racing series in Santa Monica Bay, Joe then raced sailboats in Southwest Harbor, Maine, for the balance of the summer. While there, he hosted his children, grandchildren, and legions of friends and admirers. See several pix on our Facebook page: Joe's new spinnaker that has played a major role in victories (for real); Joe and just a few of his many grandchildren and only dog, Spot; weather-beaten Joe heeling to port after concluding another (successful) race." • Correspondent **Susie Davis Patterson** learned of a wonderful reunion of mainly West Coast Wof67ers, many of whom are usually not able to come to the East Coast for that annual gathering. During a phone call from Susie, **Susan Freier Geisenheimer** was still most enthusiastic about the gathering that started with her (from Connecticut), **Carolyn Ogden Stenerson** (from Santa Fe, N.M.), **Maureen Buehler Augusciak** (from Seattle), and **Wendy Gladstein Singley** (from San Francisco) all meeting at Wendy's California wine country home in Cloverdale to spend a few very special days together. After two nights in Cloverdale, they spent the night at Wendy's house in San Francisco, where they did some hiking and went out to a wonderful dinner at a restaurant called The Commissary, which has a famous female chef. At the restaurant Susan got into a casual conversation with a group of men at the table next to them and asked what group they were with. After responding, they asked what group the women were with, and Susan said a group of Middlebury graduates. One of the men jumped up to say that his daughter was going to start as a freshman in the fall at Middlebury, which produced cheers all around! Then the rolling reunion continued with a seven-hour drive to Carpinteria, Calif., where these friends were joined by **Beverly Fead Leys** (from Wyoming), **Marnie Wilson Kerr** (from Philadelphia), **Marcia Bloom Stevenson** (from Seattle), **Wendy Pohlman Mickle** (from the San Juan Islands), **Elaine Dunphy Foster** (from New Jersey), and **Cathy Buck Leary** (from Arizona). I (**Susie**) bet together they lifted off the top of their B&B. Some of these classmates had not been able to come to our 50th Reunion, so many stories old and new were shared, as each person basked in the joy and support of being with fond Middlebury mates. • Jan and **Steve Cornwell** of Frisco, Colo., and Kristi Hanson and **Gordon Appleby** of Washington, D.C., neither of whom has submitted a blurb to Midd in over 50 years and both of whom missed last year's 50th reunion, now happily blemish their reporting records to let you know that they reuned in South Africa in May. "Three days in Kruger National Park were wondrous—we saw everything from herds of majestic elephants to the tiny malachite kingfisher. (BTW: Rhino Camp is a splendid, small base for twice-daily outings on animal viewings.) Then 10 days in Cape Town, Africa's San Francisco, was hardly enough—Table Mountain (truly glorious), Cape Point, District 6, St. George's Cathedral, and the Company's Garden (missed Robben Island due to inclement weather). Alas, all things must come to an end, and June 1, the Cornwells flew off to England while Appleby-Hanson followed in the Cornwell's earlier footsteps that trip and continued trekking in Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. If you haven't been, do put this region on your bucket list."

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The Class of 1968 Really Rocked the College for our 50th Reunion June 6-10! We had 208 people come back, including spouses and friends—over 52 percent of the class. Our gold badges were ubiquitous over the weekend as we traversed the campus from one end to the other for activities and conversations. The weather conditions were a perfect mixture of low humidity and sun. Most of us stayed in Forest Hall—a new experience for our male classmates! We were well-looked-after by some current students who kept the Wi-Fi connected, and refreshments and transport golf carts ready. Importantly, they shared their experiences with us and gave us more insight into today's Midd Kids. **Shari Galligan Johnson** and **Terry Flahive** orchestrated a wonderful schedule with activities just for our class, with other activities slotting into the College-wide of-

ferings. Among other things, there were various tours of the campus, conversations centered on veterans' experiences, an art exhibit with presentations by a number of our classmates, and the College museum's exhibit centered on 1968. We were honored to have dinner at President Patton's beautiful home and garden on Thursday night. The generosity of the class allowed us to announce a record class gift of $12,887,226, much of which will support the new Class of 1968 Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the work of the College staff, the president was completely surprised and thrilled by the announcement of this record-setting gift. We achieved our goal of 69 percent giving, a very important marker for the College and a huge achievement for the class. A huge thank-you to **Magna Leffler Dodge** and **Ben Gregg** for organizing and energizing the Reunion! The celebration honoring our deceased classmates was a highlight of the weekend. Organized by **Ben Gregg**, **Nordis Glasoe**, and **Cliff Whall**, the ceremony in the chapel recognized the loss of these 50 classmates with pictures, beautifully sung songs, poems, readings, and thoughts that left us celebrating our memories of them and of our ongoing bonds to each other and the College. Several classmates appeared in College-wide presentations—**Magna Dodge** represented the '60s in a panel exploring the Middlebury Experience over many decades. **Peter Knobler** read a marvelous story at a series of readings with the *New England Review*, sharing the stage with other alums whose work has appeared in *NER*. **Susan Caughman** very wonderfully put the ceremony's playlist together on Spotify—search "Middlebury '68" to find it and listen. **Chickie Sibley** gave an Alumni Achievement presentation on her career, showing how her Middlebury liberal arts foundation prepared her to be a better communicator and leader by learning to read and think critically, communicate ideas, and become curious and culturally aware. Chickie summed up her leadership journey in the acronym PRIDE: **P**ersistence, **R**esilience, **I**ntegrity, **D**oing good work, and **E**nergy/**E**nvironment. Chickie's presentation is at vimeo.com/274931280. We were lucky to have a perfect Friday night at Bread Loaf, with cocktails on the lawn, dinner in the Inn, a grand DJ playing the oldies in the Barn, and plenty of dancing in that memory-rich building, followed by a bonfire. Convocation was, as always, a most moving event. Our class has moved toward the back of the parade over the years and we made a most impressive entrance with our tapping canes and numbers. The class won four awards: the Armand N. LaFlamme '37 Cup for the Reunion class, other than the post-50th, with the highest giving participation; the Governor McCullough Reunion Cup for the Reunion class with the highest percentage of classmates returning for Reunion; the Cane Society Representative Award for the Reunion Cane Society representative who has gone above and beyond—**Tobi Gray Watson**; and the Patricia Judah Palmer '57 Cane Society Award for the 50th or post-50th Reunion class that raises the largest total of life income gifts and documented bequest intentions. **Chickie Sibley** received a well-deserved 2018 Alumni Achievement Award. **Conrad Ambrette** was honored with an Alumni Plaque for recognition of his service to the College. Another highlight of the weekend, as always, was the Saturday night dinner under the tents behind the Mahaney Center for the Arts, followed by fireworks and dancing, with music provided by local favorite band the Grift. Many in our class courageously held their ground on the "dance grass" in the midst of the huge dancing crowd. Reunions are always hard to leave, but Magna and David Dodge '69 generously put on a beautiful brunch at their home in West Cornwall on Sunday morning, giving most of us some precious additional time to enjoy and reflect. During the weekend, **Susan Caughman** and **Margaret Dale** ran through the very interesting results of the class survey. They will send out a report in the near future, and we thank all of you who participated. • **Betty Henderson** adds, "As a codicil to a wonderful Reunion, we had an exciting adventure going home. Don and I and **Cliff Whall** were on a flight from Burlington to Chicago on Monday morning when the pilots smelled smoke in the cockpit—so we made an emergency landing at O'Hare! All of us, including two canes and a very precious guitar, landed safely." • Thoughts most commonly heard about Reunion can be summarized with these favorite themes: "The joy of finding people I wish I had known better back then, but glad to know now." And, "Seeing classmates that have remained friends for these last 54 years." Or, as **Peter Knobler** said, "Ah, the transcendent fun of it all." • Great thanks to **Ben Gregg** and **Betty Austin Henderson** for their many years serving as class correspondents—Ben for 30 years (!) and Betty for six. With this issue, **Tobi Watson** and **Gail Hyde** are taking over this responsibility—so please send future information to one of us.

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REUNION CLASS **Rick Minton,** a.k.a. **Clubbo**, sent news of a '69 DU brothers gathering: "Quite a group of Midd Kids reconnected the weekend of June 22–24 in Holyoke, Mass., at **Terry 'Milt'** and Sydney Landon '70 **Plum**'s house. For many of us, it was the first time seeing each other since we left Midd. Stars from the past besides Milt and Sydney included **Jim Soja** (and wife Michelle) back from the Far East; **David Shimkin**, heretofore unsighted but alive and well on Long Island; **Richard Verge** (and wife Jenny); **Kevin Ducey**, my surprise guest at this reunion, up from Roanoke, Va.; **Peter Montori** (and wife Lori) from down the road in Agawam; and us, Clubbo and Ann. There were nonstop memories, stories, and laughter for about 40 hours—absolutely great and a warm-up for next June's 50th. Also invited were **Ralphie Sexton**, **Jack Freshman**, and **Jim** and **Ginny Hopper Hoverman** (who I learned relocated to Charlottesville, Va., a year ago), who couldn't make it as this event came together late, but sent their regards." • **George Pattison** writes, "The yearbook committee for our 50th Reunion had its first full meetings on June 29 and 30 in College offices on and off campus. **Linda Colwell Bouffard** and I are the committee's coordinators. The other members are **Kathy Beisler Alfeld**, **Pat Cross Anderson**, **Doug Barr**, **Connie Coffin Carter**, **Jackie Ogden English**, **Ginny Hoverman**, **Beth Hitchner Kingston**, **Jim LaChance**, **Shirley Markland**, **Pat Whitney Messler**, **Anne Harris Onion**, **Nancy Robinson Russell**, **Beverly Thierwechter**, and **Julie von Wettberg**. Most were on hand for the two-day planning session. Also present was the indispensable chief cat herder for the yearbook project, Lyn DeGraff, a constant coordinator of 50th reunions at the College (and mother of two alumnae). The meetings were lively and productive. We settled on a title and theme: *Roads Taken and Imagined,* evoking the Frost poem, the John Lennon song, and the title of our 25th Reunion yearbook, *The Long and Winding Road*. Committee members began work on the yearbook's various elements: classmates' autobiographies, essays, poems, and artwork; photos and other artifacts from our college days; obituaries for some 40 classmates; and Middlebury Moments, thumbnail accounts of memorable times. A welcome break from the sweaty labors—hey, we're old people—followed Friday's session, when the committee repaired to Fire & Ice, the landmark local restaurant founded by **Dale Goddard**. Dale greeted us at the door and treated us to a drink. The dinner crowd included **Elinor Livingston Redmond**, who, with **Peter Reynolds**, is coordinating the Reunion's social committee, and **David Dodge**, the co-coordinator with **Mary MacArthur Wendell**, of the gift committee. (Elinor and Peter helpfully sat in on the yearbook committee's meetings.) By now classmates should have received a letter encouraging everyone to submit not only an autobiography with photos, but anything else you'd care to contribute to the yearbook. Please respond ASAP! As noted in the letter, the formal deadline for submissions was October 1, but you can still act now if you haven't already. *Roads Taken and Imagined* will be printed by the end of this year and mailed to everyone soon thereafter. Delivered early in the year, the yearbook is an incentive to attend the Reunion itself—a preview of the chance to meet the classmates behind the absorbing stories you will have read. So let's get started on this road. We look forward to receiving your story soon and, after that, to seeing you on campus in June—50 years after our graduation. • Correspondent **Peter Reynolds** reminds everyone: Be aware of ongoing communications about our 50th. So far about 40 of us have joined **Mary Wendell** and

ARABIC SCHOOL

Reginald Heefner (MA '15, School of Hebrew '16–18) taught the first-ever Modern Hebrew course at York College of Pennsylvania. He also revived Arabic instruction there after a nearly 30-year hiatus and taught Chinese there for the first time after nearly a decade since it was last taught.

CHINESE SCHOOL

In June **Cecilia Chang** (director) received the news that she had been awarded a named professorship at Williams College, where she is a professor of Chinese. She is now the Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of Chinese. Congratulations!

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Gerald Kenjorski (MA '66), a well-known art historian in Pennsylvania, recently gave a talk at the Hill Country Artists meeting about landscape paintings, from settings to substance. • The Berkshire Country Day School recently announced that **Jenifer Fox** (MA '94) has been appointed the head of school beginning in the 2019–2020 school year. She is currently serving as the founding head of school at the Delta School in Wilson, Ark. • Living in Ouray, Colo., **John Kissingford** (MA '00) and wife Kate began No Holds Bard, a theater company that showcases first-folio performances of Shakespeare's plays "with the energy, intensity, and delight" that he intended. • **Casey Riley** (MA '03) was recently named the curator and head of the Dept. of Photography and New Media at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. A specialist in the history of photography as well as the visual and material culture of the 19th century, she oversees the scholarship, display, and preservation of more than 14,000 photographs and works of new media that comprise the museum's collection. • Dr. **Simone Kraus** ('05) is a translator, university lecturer, and Philip Roth scholar from Germany. She returned to Bread Loaf in 2016 and 2017 to attend the new Translators' Conference, with a Katharine Bakeless Nason grant for emerging writers. Having discovered her writing voice during the Translators' Conference, she also attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in 2017 as a manuscript contributor for creative nonfiction. Simone is currently working on a book project exploring her identity as a translator-writer/writer-translator from a transatlantic perspective. • **Emily James** (MA '15) sent word that she recently published a children's book with POW! Custom Publishing. *The Adventures of Pinky: Friends in Fun Places* is a picture book about Pinky, who travels to places around the world, making friends and realizing they are more important than the places he visits.

BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA '86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH

Dr. **Mel Yoken** ('59, '63), Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at the Univ. of Massachusetts Dartmouth, has been awarded the French Legion of Honor by a decree from Emmanuel Macron, president of France. Created by Napoleon in 1802, the Legion of Honor "acknowledges services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit," and is bestowed on any individual, native or foreign. • The Alliance Française of Northwest Connecticut recently added Dr. **Leola Belzil Gulino** (MA, DML '77) to the teaching staff of its French Language School in Southbury. She has also taught French at UConn Torrington, LeMoyne College, and Wesleyan Univ. • **Julia Seavey** (MA '15) is teaching French and also Advanced Placement (AP) French at Lynnfield (Mass.) High School. • This fall **Rebecca Chartrand** (MA '16) began a job as a French teacher at Thatcher Brook Primary School in Waterbury, Vt.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

Rosemary Mondo (MA '11) writes, "Many years ago, a life coach told me I had a Renaissance soul, so I decided to take my Renaissance soul and create Via Mondo Travel & Wellness. Via Mondo combines my wish to live a balanced, healthy life while feeding my adventurous spirit to explore the world. I have 17 years of industry know-how. I have two higher-educational degrees, one in international studies and the other in Italian studies. My upbringing, my educational background, and my professional experience all together forms a unique and specialized boutique travel agency. After trying my hand at teaching, the classroom setting was far too small to embrace the true essence of a culture, so I decided to take my experiences outside the classroom and into the world. Now the classroom is the countries, activities, and places I take travelers to. I believe travel makes us respectable and compassionate citizens." • **Angel Diaz** ('91, '11–13) sent the sad news that Prof. Paul Colilli, Italian School professor and assistant director, passed away on March 7 after a short battle with cancer. He writes, "He was one of the best, most knowledgeable, most approachable, and most kind professors that I have ever had the pleasure to study under and to learn from. His passion for the Medieval and Renaissance periods was contagious. His passing has left a huge void in the world of academia and Italian Renaissance and Medieval studies." An obituary appears in the back of the magazine.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

The Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County, Calif., recently announced that **Lejla Bratovic** (MAIPS '02) was hired as the new executive director. Also holding a Certificate in Conflict Resolution, she is originally from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1993. She is the cofounder and president of Global Majority, an NGO dedicated to the promotion of nonviolent conflict resolution through education, training, advocacy, and mediation. • After adding a varsity e-sports (competitive online gaming) program, Averett Univ. in Danville, Va., hired **Oscar Manzano** (MPA '17) as the first e-sports head coach. While working on his master's, he obtained an internship opportunity as an assistant manager for a game called Hearthstone, an online card game, where he gained experience working with players, senior management, and schedules. • An accomplished Afghan woman, **Onaba Payab** (MAIPD '18) serves as a role model for young women in her country. She was the first female valedictorian at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul; before attending the Institute as a Fulbright Scholar, she moderated a discussion between former First Lady Laura Bush and then First Lady Michelle Obama in Dallas; and she spoke with members of the U.S. Congress as part of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council. After receiving her degree from the Institute in May, she returned to Afghanistan, where she plans to continue working towards education and equality for Afghan women.

SCHOOL OF SPANISH

James Drane (MA '61), former Russell B. Roth Professor of Philosophy and Clinical Bioethics and founder of the Bioethics Institute at Edinboro Univ. in Pennsylvania, has established a religious speaker fund to promote a dynamic and thought-provoking speaker series. • In June, **Lisa Bucciarelli-Carlos** (MA '00) was named the new principal of Plainfield Elementary School in Des Plaines (Ill.) Elementary School District 62. She most recently served as principal of Abraham Lincoln Elementary in Oak Park, Ill. • **Rosemary Sands** (MA '02, DML '13) was recently named director of the Center for Norbertine Studies at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. She has worked at St. Norbert College since 1993 in a variety of capacities, including instructor of Spanish and Italian, director of Study Abroad, and assistant director of the Center for Norbertine Studies. Her dissertation, *La desamortización eclesiástica de Juan Álvarez Mendizábal: su impacto sobre la Orden Premonstratense en la España del siglo XIX*, dealt with the 700-year history and eventual demise of the Norbertine Order in Spain (1143–1835).

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Raymond Johnson (MS Chemistry '65) writes that he has been retired since 1999. "This new phase of my life has been very rich and rewarding. Six years on the board of our local Planned Parenthood affiliate (four years as president) brought a lot of satisfaction in working with a group of very dedicated people. After attending a conference on climate change, I got really interested and involved in the various sciences and the impacts of it; sea-level rise, extreme weather, increased ocean temperatures, melting glaciers, and so on. In 2009 I started writing monthly articles for our local newspaper on the science of climate change. The articles avoided opinion, politics, and stuck to the very sound data being developed by NASA, NOAA, and others. In April of this year, my busiest month yet, I was invited to give four lectures as well. The topics were 'Climate Science,' and 'Converging Technologies that Will Reduce Carbon Emissions.' The groups included LCV and students in different classes at SUNY Plattsburgh. I just submitted my 111th article to the *Press Republican* newspaper, which has been very supportive of this project. All of these articles and hundreds of reports can be found at www.icsusa.org. And the sojourn continues."

ClassActs

David Dodge in meeting, discussing ideas for the weekend, participating in online dialogs, and exploring a variety of ways to increase classmates' attendance for our thoughtful, reflective, festive, restorative, stimulating, entertaining gathering. My experience of a number of Midd reunions is that acquaintances discover friends. (And, for what it's worth, and perhaps in memory of the '60s, Vermont now accepts homegrown grass.) For roads taken and imagined, please, "you come, too." • Correspondent **Anne Onion** adds: We have been privy to reading the 1968 yearbook from this past year, and it is captivating! Just think of what ours can be, but it takes contributions from each of you. And if you have something you'd really like to have as an activity at Reunion, let us know that too. Please participate in www.middleburycollege69.com/class, our class website, and/or our Middlebury College Class of 1969 Facebook page to keep in touch as we approach our 50th! • PICTURES WANTED: If you have (shareable!) digital images of those tender years at Midd, please send to Anne or Peter or anyone on the Reunion committee OR post on the class website.

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Nancy Heller sent this news: "I recently presented four lectures about Spanish painters in D.C. for the Smithsonian Associates. I was nervous about including a clip from Mel Brooks's classic film, *The History of the World, Part I*, to go along with my discussion of El Greco's terrifying portrait of a Catholic cardinal who'd also served as Spain's Grand Inquisitor. I figured the audience would either get up and leave or laugh hysterically at his 'Spanish Inquisition' musical number—complete with tap-dancing monks and nuns who strip down to white bathing suits to do a synchronized-swimming number that ends with the ladies serving as blazing candles atop a huge menorah. Great stuff! Lucky for me, they stayed and enjoyed Mel and company as much as I did. My husband and I have also moved, to a different apartment in a different part of Philadelphia—after getting tired of dealing with our horrible former landlord. We now live in a brand-new rental building, complete with unimagined luxuries we've never had before (including a second bathroom!), and so far things seem a whole lot better. Once we get fully settled, we should even have a guest bed. (Hint) Bob is still volunteering at the Independence Seaport Museum, where he helps build, and rebuild, wooden boats of all kinds. Lots of work, but very cool. I'm still hanging on (but just barely) teaching at the University of the Arts. We recently had a delightful dessert-and-chat session with fellow Midd Kids Charlotte Sibley '68 and her lovely-and-talented spouse, Leif Magnusson '69, who live outside of town but come in regularly for chamber music concerts, the Philadelphia Orchestra, etc." At the time she wrote, Nancy was hoping to get through two months of rehearsals for a local Fringe Festival event set for early September, which was supposed to feature 200 dancers (most of them amateurs, like her) doing a 30-minute group number at the base of the famous Rocky steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She sends best wishes to everyone. • **Jo Wayles** reports from Ashland, Ore.: "I had a nice visit with **Sandy Humphrey Rybczynski** when she was in Ashland in May—great fun to catch up and recall our days in the Château and Weybridge House. Sandy is her same impish self! Alan and I went to Italy for a few weeks this past summer to celebrate our 25th anniversary—we met friends from various walks of life for some villa adventures. I'm studying Italian—wish that had been my major instead of math. As we are galloping towards our 50th Reunion, I know many of us will meet soon; in the meantime, I'd love to see you if you visit the Pacific Northwest!" • What goes around comes around. In 1972, **Stuart Parnes** started his museum career as a young, part-time paid staff at his small hometown museum in Stonington, Conn. Now, 46 years later and happily retired, he has begun serving as chairman of the board of the small historical museum (with one very young part-time employee) in his new hometown of Oxford, Md. He fixed the broken toilets then, and he's fixing them again now. Wife **Sue Ellen Thompson** might say this was poetic justice. • **Dave Desrochers** sent us this brief update: "Elsa (Parrington) '71 and I have taken two trips with Rick Steves tours. We went to the Basque country one year and last year to Greece. Both were wonderful. We'll be going to the 50th Reunion to join the geezer parade on the hill. Our son, Max, is on the list for commander in the Navy and his wife is also a lieutenant commander. They are career Navy. Daughter Danielle and her husband are both physicians in Portland, Ore. We had dinner with **Harry** and Lynn Francis '71 **Zinn** in Steamboat Springs, Colo., and lunch with **Chris** and Linda Manning '72 **Morris** in Chapel Hill, N.C. Chris and Linda are on the wait list with us at the Carolina Meadows CCRC in Chapel Hill." • From **Tom DeRogatis** we received this news note: "My sense is that I am closer to the front rather than the rear of the line when it comes to having reached the millstone—I mean milestone—**Beth** referred to in her request for news of happenings among our class. I celebrated my 70th at a wonderful dinner with wife Teresa and our older daughter, Rachael. Our younger daughter, Talia, lives in NYC and was unable to make the trip to join us. She did, however, collaborate with her sister on presenting me with a framed listing of the '70 Reasons Why We Love You.' It was nothing short of a clever, creative, and extraordinarily comical—even if sometimes cheeky—listing of things I do and have done; things I say and have said; reactions I have had to various occurrences; and remembrances of events and happenings over the past nearly 30 years of our lives together. The last time I laughed so hard may have been when I opened my letter from Middlebury's Office of Admissions and read that they were actually offering me a place in the Class of 1970. Life is good! I am lucky, indeed! My best to all the special people I met at Middlebury and thank you for being a part of who I am today." • **Al Perry** sent us this update: "**Rob Apple** and I completed our third (probably last) European Alps motorcycle adventure, an eight-day ride through the Pyrenees! Incredible riding, no traffic; Rob was impressed by my passable Spanish and me with his breakfast chef skills! I got called back to lead my 13th three-day Honor Flight. The total is now at 1,090 WWII and Korean War veterans—ages 89 to 99!—brought home with "No falls with injury." I am deep into leading the local nonprofit Break the Barriers $1 million fundraiser to build an enclosed year-round aquatic center, specializing in teaching disabled children to swim. Sadly, with temperatures pushing 100 degrees, drownings (ages five and under) now average three per week; two-thirds in backyard pools under family supervision! Speaking of which, I saved our small dog from drowning and completely tore a rotator cuff in the process. Repair surgery done in Fresno failed. Did a last-resort reverse total shoulder replacement surgery in San Francisco. Note to classmates: your outstretched arm will *no longer* break your fall onto the cement pool deck!" • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 84!

—Class Correspondents: Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com); Nancy Crawford (ncrawford_sutcliffe@comcast.net).

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Nan Krumm Sichler reports, "Joe and I have sold our house in Farmington, Conn., where we lived for 40-plus years, and are now in Florida full time. Against all odds, I find that I am loving it! The pace of life is so lovely, and there is a certain civility here in the South which we did not experience up North. We are both engaged in many activities. I am still heavily involved in music and church and also sit on the board of the Lake Wales Care Center, which provides important services to the underserved in our community. We do retain a footprint in Connecticut, as our daughter Kirsten '02 and husband Tyler Webb live in Greenwich. I also stay in frequent touch with **Alex Haynes-Buob**; we still talk a lot about music and the roles that it plays in our lives." • **Alex** concurs. "Yes, Nan and I do keep in touch and we enjoy sharing our life stories and also our continuing love for music. Nine years ago, husband Tom took early retirement from UNH and we moved to Pittsboro, N.C. We live in the country but are near the Research Triangle, so we are able to do just about any activity here. I continue to teach piano and play hammered dulcimer, learning lots of traditional tunes. Such fun musicians to meet! My other passion has become horses. I own two miniature horses that I have loved since their birth. I volunteer at a therapeutic riding center. And this year, I adopted an older Morgan cross

who is perfect for me! We love living in North Carolina, but we return to Cape Cod in the summers to escape the hot temps." • **Craig Morris** writes, "After spending 35 of the first 37 years of our marriage in New England (Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire), Mary and I relocated to Tampa, Fla., 10 years ago due to a job opportunity. We never, ever thought we would end up in Florida, but the offer was too good to refuse at the time. In December 2016, I retired from the school photography industry after 43 years, and Mary retired from acting in film and commercial work. Since then we have spent considerable time visiting with family, including three grandchildren—one in Vermont and two outside of Washington, D.C. We also spent our second consecutive month of July near the coast of Maine. The travel distance to family and the beauty of New England in the summer are causing us to examine if we really want to stay in the South. As for retirement—what a rat race! All the travel, time spent on painting and music and just spending time with each other. Neither of us can imagine being bored, and we both are fully aware that we're at the stage of life where we need to enjoy each day as it comes. It's painful to hear of friends and classmates who have passed on, but it's a fact of life we all must face. And I have to write one quick note on the loss of our friend **Howie Verman**. Howie and I did not spend much time together at Middlebury, but we worked together for several years in Vermont during the '90s while he was an administrator in the Chittenden East School District. I commented to him about how outgoing, open, and friendly he was as a classmate. He told me that in high school he had been very shy and retiring (something I'm very familiar with) and that he decided he was going to be different in college and meet and befriend as many people as he could. He did that. And he positively influenced everyone he met, including me. I am proud to have been his friend and his memory sets an example for us all. We wish everyone well and look forward to making it to Reunion #50 for the Class of '71!" • After 30 years at *USA Today* as an editor and then a leisure travel writer, **Kitty Bean Yancey** took a buyout. She reports, "I now satisfy my wanderlust by freelance writing and spending more time on the road with my significant other, Barry. We especially love independent walking trips, during which route notes in a waterproof pouch point the way from place to place. You get lost with regularity (half the fun) and arrive at your next hotel to find your bags waiting. We've done a dozen outings, from Italy's Amalfi Coast and Tuscany, to France's Brittany and Burgundy, to the Portuguese island of Madeira, to the sands of Morocco. I highly recommend hiking trips as a way of seeing the world and keeping fit. We live in Washington, with a front row seat on the most depressing presidency imaginable. I once interviewed Donald Trump when he was secretly bankrupt and never met a man with less interest in anything other than bragging about himself. He had just purchased the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, and his first words to me after a butler opened the door were 'Isn't this the most beautiful house you've ever seen?' I replied, 'No, Versailles and the White House.' I can only wish sanity returns to national policymaking. It's hard to be proud to be an American these days. We're eyeing retirement spots from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to the San Diego area. But we love our house and D.C.'s diversity and culture. I haven't kept up with Midd classmates, save for very occasional local reunions. But I'm grateful for my two years at Middlebury and regret spending too much time in the library and on various sports fields. A big shout-out to my fellow American literature majors—a great group. I love to read everyone's news, so keep it coming!" • **Anne Lahey Kehl** writes, "I moved last year from the home in Short Hills, N.J., where Phil Kehl '72 and I had lived and raised our two sons, Philip '06 and Andrew, since 1986. We lost Phil in 2015. I now live in a townhouse community in Westfield, N.J. I love Westfield and have made very good friends here. I have reconnected with **Debbie Bailey**, a longtime Westfield resident. We belong to a group that travels often into the city to see the Met Opera. **Cyndy Bronson Altman**, **Susan Fritsch Hunter**, **Diana Egbers Fanning**, and I enjoy frequent get-togethers. My career was spent in financial services, primarily as a portfolio manager for individual and family clients. I retired in 2014. Phil and I always enjoyed travel, especially trips to Italy and France. Since retirement, I have enjoyed my work as a volunteer ESL teacher and grocery shopper for the homebound elderly. The most fun of all is being a grandmother to son Philip's daughter, born in early 2015."

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Our Reunion "cookie provider," **Judy McCormack**, sent a bunch of our Reunion photos to **Don Reutershan**, which prompted him to send some news. Don has lived with wife Paula in Maine ever since coming back from the Middlebury MA program in Mainz, Germany. A few years ago, Don retired from his job as world language specialist for the Maine Department of Education. For the past five years, he has contracted with the Maine Arts Commission as the state coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation program for high school students. Prompted by this news of Don and knowing how modest he is, this correspondent (**Evey**) researched a bit further and found that Don had been recognized in 2006 as State Supervisor of the Year. He has held many leadership positions and led the first National Assoc. of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages delegation to China in 2005. Don is called "the face of foreign languages" in Maine and is known for his graciousness and charm. One of his colleagues had written, "Not only does everybody in the state (and beyond) know him; he also knows everybody else. No matter whether you see him in the lobby at a conference in Washington, D.C., or in the local grocery store, he greets you by name and with a pleasant smile. He'll ask how things are going and cares what the answer is." No surprise. This is the Don we all remember from Middlebury. • **Kyle Metcalf** writes from Honolulu and includes a great link giving us some idea of how he has spent his life (vimeo.com/269973689). "I am still living on Oahu in Palolo Valley in a four-story pole house. I have a daughter, Kaitlyn, who is 32 years old and works on the postproduction side of television in Los Angeles. She has continuously made her mother and me very proud of her citizenship and career accomplishments. I've been married to Jane (Chasten) Metcalf since 1984. Jane is a Radford graduate whose father retired from the Air Force and made Hawaii his retirement home. While fumbling around for a career out of college, I lifeguarded at Makapuu part time for the city and county of Honolulu. I cooked at the Black Angus Restaurant behind International Market Place. I worked on cars out of my yard on Wilder Avenue. And I finally settled into car repair business full time under the name Kyle's Service. Before having our child, I was heavily involved, say even a racquetball addict, at Oahu Athletic Club on Auahi Street. I would later translate this energy to building and flying kites, and I finally settled into being somewhat of a helicopter parent as our child performed in various commercial and amateur forms of musical theater from elementary through high school. My wife is a fashion expert and jewelry necklace designer in her spare time. She has just recently retired from Nordstrom and is enjoying her lanai garden and craft room. Since our daughter has moved away, I have devoted most of my nonworking time to building an extensive collection of semi-antique Hawaiiana, surfing almost every day, and producing an enormous number of YouTube videos on subjects relating to Hawaii artists and surfing. I have also dabbled in not-for-profit wedding videos. My most popular video is called 'Kailua Beach Crab Hunt,' which has well over 3 million views. Lately I have run a very small online rock-and-roll trivia game a couple of times a week, and I have begun a renewed interest in writing (I wrote an article that was published on the *Surf News Network* site, which you can google) and poetry that I began at Middlebury College: 'I've built a home with leaves, / Yet longed for wood. / I've lived for all / But only to self am understood. / I sing different harmonies / Two hearts to enjoy / And reconcile a love / For potato and poi. / Although a Hawaiian sun / Warms my head above me, / A New England brook courses my heart / As certain as maple sap bleeds into a pail. / On my canvas swim the blurs of a Hawaiian-Yankee dance / For I am the brushstroke of a missionary transplant.'" • Congratulations to **John Morrissey**, whose documentary *A Murder in Mansfield* was chosen to be screened

at the fourth annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in August. The documentary tells the story of a man who overheard his father murder his mother when he was 12 years old and who is ready to confront his father in prison, 30 years later. • We are sorry to report that **Peter Atkins** died on July 19. Our sympathy is sent to his family. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 77!

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@primetimetransition.com).

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Before sharing comments from our 45th Reunion, we return to our coverage of class writers. This topic was one correspondent **Lisa Donati Mayer** had been envisioning as an offshoot on sharing books and writings for, perhaps, solace in these troubled times? Wisdom as we get older? Understanding of confusing, complicated issues? **John Wilson Whitewolf** has been maintaining a blog for years, posting "Discussions at the intersection of psychology, spirituality, and philosophy." They are timely, universal, and very worth reading. Find his writings on johnwhitewolf.blogspot.com. • We also received a lead from our alumni staff liaison that **Wendy Mogel** has published her newest book, *Voice Lessons for Parents: What to say, how to say it, and when to listen.* Wendy is a research and policy advisor for Challenge Success, a program of the Stanford Univ. School of Education as well as a *New York Times* best-selling author. The article describing her book stated, "Dr. Mogel offers an essential guide to the art of talking with children of all ages" and concluded, "Drawing on insights from her 35-year career in clinical psychology, hilarious anecdotes (and sound advice) from school and camp counselors, and eye-opening conversations with middle and high school students, she helps parents support their children's intrinsic motivation and resilience." Wendy lives in Southern California with husband Michael Tolkin '74. • **Robin Cruise** writes, "Reading and writing have remained anchors of sorts for me since childhood—passions fueled at Middlebury and sustained ever since. Although I never got rich from either effort (not the point!), I'm fortunate to have had a long career that has never veered far from work I love. Having just a few children's books in print is the icing on the proverbial cake of my workaday life! After 30+ years toiling for various employers (most of them good), I started my own little editorial support business five years ago. I now spend 25 or so hours a week collaborating mostly with publishers, agents, authors, and other clients I enjoy working with. It's been a good mode for me, and the flexibility affords time for me to enjoy the Pacific Northwest, which I have loved since landing here (for a job) a decade ago." Robin's business is the Right Words and caters to authors, illustrators, and others who have stories to tell or information to share. I (**Lindy**) remember her acclaimed children's books from my school librarian days here in Vermont, and it was a treat to reconnect by email around this topic. She really regretted not being able to make it back to Reunion as she was going to be with her twin, **John Cruise,** to celebrate their June 1 birthday in Colorado. But she asked to be remembered to all her friends from Batt North and especially to **Mike Ryan,** who along with **Joey Smith** and the late **Kenny Loftus**, were the "bestest Middlebury and lifelong buds John and I ever had. It was a memorable and magical chapter for John and me, though it's probably a good thing neither of us extended the idyll!" • All of us who attended Reunion and others who wished they could have made it this time share those feelings. As **Kevin Kenlan** and **Mary Farley** described our years during the Convocation, we '73ers realized we did live through unique times, filled with changes both nationally and institutionally. Other class agents, each sharing a kernel of life during their years at Middlebury, and the panelists and audience who spoke during the Saturday morning presentation noted insightful and universal perspectives on their experiences. The weekend also featured a memorial service led by **Kathy Wonson Eddy**, in which tributes were shared of the classmates who have passed away since our freshman year. They are sorely missed and do remind us of the importance of each day and each friend. We are also honored that two of our classmates received College awards. **Frank Pallone** was one of the College's recipients of the Alumni Achievement Award. Frank majored in history and French, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New Jersey, in 1988 and has served there ever since. That is an astonishing number of years to be elected and offer public service at that level. During his time in Congress he has made healthcare access and environmental issues his hallmark issues. He also spoke on Saturday morning. Thank you, Frank! And most deservedly, for her many years of service to our class, **Mary Farley** received the Alumni Plaque, which is awarded annually in recognition of service to the College. Thank you, Mary! Another special time of celebration was the Saturday night dance—what a spirit of camaraderie that event was with all ages of alumni getting loose on the dance floor! It was definitely a weekend of friends and happy times, with more activities and places to explore than could be contained in just a couple of days. But for our 50th, the party starts earlier and the more the merrier, so please put that June weekend in 2023 on your calendar! We hope that 2018 attendees will continue to post their stories, pix, and reflections on our class Facebook page, and do check out the '73 class photo that's posted—just how many classmates can you identify?

—Class Correspondents: Lisa Donati Mayer (ldmayer@aol.com); Lindy Osterland Sargent (davelindysarg@gmail.com).

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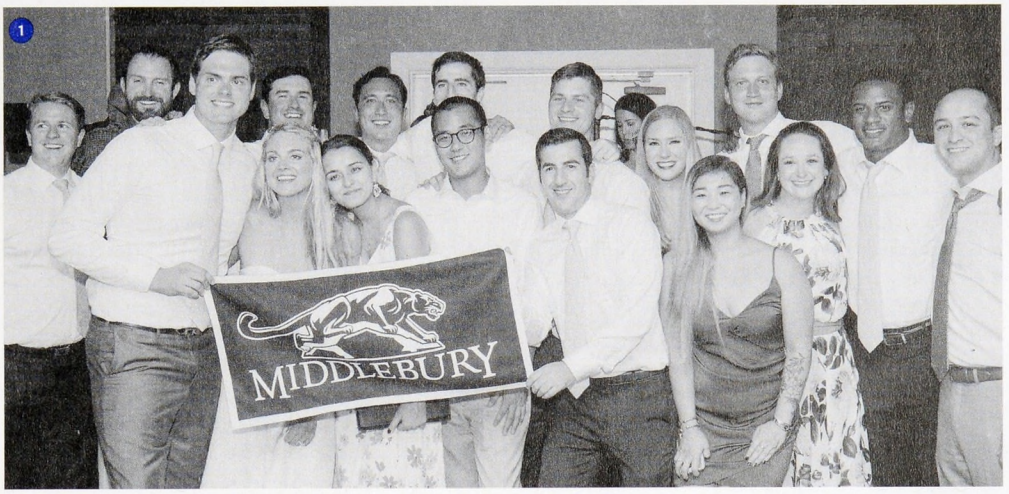
REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Barry Schultz King** reports: **Linda Henstrand Schroth** retired in July 2017 after 37 years as a family doctor in central Connecticut. She loved her job but has no regrets about retirement. Linda has stayed busy with traveling, grandchildren, learning Spanish, piano lessons, tennis, and more. The "more" includes mountain biking, although she blew out her knee the day before she wrote me! • **Peggy Hart** has been weaving blankets for the last 35 years, many of them for sheep farmers—including **John Webb**—who want a product from their own wool. Peggy says, "I have always had a deep and abiding interest in wool, and my work got me reflecting on the wool industry, resulting in a book, *Wool: Unraveling an American Story of Artisans and Innovation.*" She presents aspects of this history at textile conferences and is making the rounds of wool shows for book signings. When not immersed in the world of wool, Peggy enjoys rafting on the Colorado River and in the wilds of Alaska. (To see a review of Peggy's book, check out middmag.com under Review, July-August Picks.) • In 2016, **John Webb** retired after 35 years of family medicine and urgent care in Wisconsin. His wife, Roxana, works part time as a physician in addiction medicine. Twenty-six years ago, the pair turned a homesteaded dairy farm into a hobby farm. "We pretty much raised all our own meat: bison, Longhorns, pigs, and chickens. We raised riding horses, a few llamas, peacocks, and geese. We also bred Jacob's sheep and made our own wool, which **Peggy Hart** wove into beautiful '4pennyfarm' blankets for us. We have six children (one together) and 12 grandchildren. All are wonderful, working, and healthy. How amazing is that?!" John enjoys his increased ability to travel and spend time with family and friends. One close friend is **Eric Waldron**, John's senior year roommate. After years in Massachusetts, Eric and wife Carol moved to New Hampshire; the couples have visited each other many times. • **Marge Schneider** writes, "My husband, Ed Shirley, and I recently settled into semi-retirement, spending winters in Scottsdale, Ariz., and summers on Cape Cod. Ed's career took us from Boston to California, Germany, England, Ohio, and Bermuda, so after a 13-year career in accounting and marketing, I became the trailing spouse—full-time homemaker and part-time relocation specialist, travel agent, and guest-house manager. Along the way, we raised three children (one attended Middlebury's Russian summer language program.) Now we're keeping all too busy—boards, consulting, volunteer work, traveling, visiting family and friends, golfing, reading, relaxing." • **Marianne vanderFeltz Schinck** sent word from the Netherlands, where she and her husband, Cees Schinck, have lived since 1984—100 meters from the North Sea. They also have an inherited chalet in a tiny mountain village in Switzerland. Both she and Cees are retired and have plenty of time to travel and take long hikes. "Best of

both worlds, the ocean and the mountains!" With their two children nearby in Amsterdam, and everyone in good health, Marianne says, "We count our blessings!" • **Randy Houser** reports, "Jean and I celebrated our 37th anniversary in May. We have lived in Charleston, S.C., since 1992. I spent 25 years in the cable TV business and six in real estate, moving from Wyoming to Maryland and then to North Carolina before ending up here. I am now retired. We became grandparents last fall! Looking to downsize soon." • **Earl Irving,** although officially retired from the State Department after a satisfying 30-year career, is acting deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Juba, South Sudan. He writes from that civil-war-torn nation, "Although not many Americans even know about this country, Middlebury College is well represented here. Dr. **Jill Seaman** spent many years here and formed a nongovernmental organization to dispense medical care in a place called Old Fangak. And the embassy's public affairs officer is Mark Weinberg '98. Although hampered in getting out our story—this is a high-threat post with active combat not far from the capital, little Internet penetration, a shackled press, and an embassy so fortified that the general public walks right past, rather than reading in our library—Mark is doing an amazing job and the populace is generally well disposed toward us. It's been great to reminisce with him about our times at Middlebury. I am retired, but still work occasionally as an on-call diplomat. Serving in places like South Sudan keeps my hand in the issues of the day. My wife, Jeanne, just retired from her career at the Department of Defense, so we have time to travel and think about where we want to settle for our next chapter. We got a bit of a late start on having children, so no grandchildren yet." • In April, **Mary Lee-Clark** celebrated her last Sunday as pastor of Second Congregational Church, UCC, in Bennington, Vt., after 23 years of ministry there and 39 years all together. "It was an emotional, wonderful day. What a privilege and joy it has been to pastor with this amazing group of people. Bruce and I plan to stay in the Bennington area and are also building a camp in the south central Adirondacks. I'm looking forward to having weekends off—heck, you get the whole week off when you're retired!—and to becoming a grandmother. I'm also interested in exploring 'intentional eldering.' *From Age-ing to Sage-ing* by Rabbi Shalman Schecter introduced me to this concept. How do we share and give back some of the hard-earned wisdom we've gained over the years to a world that can use all the wisdom it can get? Looking forward to our 45th Reunion next year (?!)."

—Class Correspondents: Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).



1 On September 23, 2017, Blake Berman '09 married Casey Van de Walle (Princeton '11) at Gurneys Resort and Spa in Montauk, N.Y. Middlebury friends who joined in the celebration included (all '09 unless noted) Mike West, the newlyweds, Erika Wade '12, Garrett Saito, Max Sinsheimer, Christine Chung '10, Marisa Porter, Dave Ellis, Matt Joseph, (second row) Jared Bean, Ben Kunofsky, John Havel, Andrew Matson, Brian Marcks, Maggie Crolius, and Dan Ruth. 2 At the 65th reunion of the Dissipated 8 in Middlebury, Class of 1980 members and kids had a mini-reunion: Paul Turco, Gabriel Turco '20, Seamus Turco '21, Steve Ahmann, Lindsey Ahmann, Ken Shulman, Scott "Frodo" Fleming, Rusty Hlavacek, and Wouter Rietsema. 3 Ethan Galiette '13 and Koby Altman '04, general manager for the Cavaliers, met at the Cavs game in Cleveland on January 20.

4 A Class of 1972 mini-reunion was held in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and included Mason Browne, retired, current ski racer; George Seivwright, retired, current charter boat captain; and Chris Downs, still working to pay off two daughters' Middlebury tuitions. 5 Classmates from 1979 took a trip to Italy and visited Sorrento: Amy Meeker, Ellen Kramer, Majie Zeller, (second row) Joanellen Sullivan, Nancy Limbacher Meyer, and Kim Ulrich Whelan.

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Melissa Thyoneus writes, "I live with two cats in San Diego and I'm working as an RN until I figure out where I can afford to retire. I sneak a little energy healing into my work

when I can, go to the farmers' market weekly, and grow things in pots outside my apartment for fun. I see **Anne Rathbone Winskie** in person three or four times a year; contact with other Middlebury friends is via Facebook and at reunions." • An article about **Pascal Cheng** appeared in the *Burlington Free Press* before the Vermont City Marathon so I (**Nan**) asked him for an update. He writes, "I got my start with long-distance running as a member of the Middlebury cross-country team and developed a lifelong love of running from my college running experiences. I did my first marathon in Boston in the spring of my senior year and after graduation, continued on with doing marathons. In 1989, I entered the inaugural Vermont City Marathon (VCM) not knowing that this would be the beginning of a streak that has continued on for 30 years and counting. There are a multitude of marathons now to choose from all over the country but nothing beats being able to run on your 'home course' (I am a Burlington resident), where you can roll out of bed and get to the start in 10 minutes, run through familiar streets, and be cheered on by your family and friends. While there have been numerous changes to the race over the years, it has been able to maintain its identity as a true community event. Marathon Sunday in Burlington is a day where every neighborhood in the city is filled with runners, volunteers, spectators, and live bands. And since not everyone can or wants to run 26.2 miles, VCM has been able to maintain a high level of runner participation with the options of two-person and six-person relay teams. When I can no longer do the full marathon distance, I will look forward to joining a team and being a part of the event once again."
—Class Correspondent: Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com).

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Judy Skagen Hessel reports, "I retired a few years ago from the headquarters of Northwestern Mutual, where I worked in human resources. My husband, Paul Hessel, also retired from there. Daughter Holly was married this past summer. She is a cellist (so is her husband) and will be teaching and playing in a quartet at Community Music Works in Providence, R.I. My husband and I spend a lot of time volunteering at our church. We live in Shorewood, Wis., a small village north of downtown Milwaukee. We also have a vacation home in Green Lake, Wis., where we go when we want peace and quiet (like Vermont, but without the mountains). We hope to visit Vermont soon, as my husband has never been there. I do miss it." • **Mary Hodgkin** says, "Retirement in Maine is working out well. I ride a Morgan mare who lives at a nearby stable, care for a large coastal garden, grow organic food, make quilts with recycled shirts, serve on the board of a local nonprofit, and help organize an annual garden tour fundraiser. A couple of winter months in Asheville, N.C., helps avoid a few snowstorms but still gives us four seasons." • **Theresa Claudson Hupp** published her third historical novel, *Forever Mine*, in January 2018. She has been writing since she retired from her career as an attorney and human resources executive at Hallmark Cards several years ago. You can find her books on Amazon. Theresa and her husband live in Kansas City, Mo. • **Gary Holmes** sent news: "I'm working part time at my former PR firm in Finsbury, volunteering at my church and other nonprofits in Connecticut, and writing a biweekly column for Mediapost.com. Seems like every conversation with my peers involves a discussion about when to take Social Security or how to sleep past 4:00 a.m. No grandkids yet but I do have a fully employed son so consider myself blessed. Hanging in there with the first wife. Thinking it will stick." • **Nancy Clark Herter** retired in 2014 after 35 years of teaching art at Middlesex School in Concord, Mass., and has been busier than when working! Her days have been filled with lots of travels, gardening, tennis, pickle ball, and spending time with her eight grandchildren. She and husband Ned recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. • We thank all these classmates for sharing their news. If you would like to send an update, please do so; you don't have to wait to be asked. Just send one of us an email. Thank you for your time.
—Class Correspondents: Sue Lewellen LeFeber (lefeber@att.net); Delia Walch Mohlie (mohlie295@yahoo.com).

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Please send me your news! I'd love to hear from you!
—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (boblindberg1928@gmail.com).

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What a Reunion! More than 160 classmates and family members arrived at Midd during an absolutely perfect Vermont weekend. After dinner on Friday, we were treated to a special showing of **David Lally**'s new film *Dream House*. (www.dreamhousethemovie.com) Then, in our normal '78 fashion, we commandeered McCullough for our big Music Jam. Under **Tom Davis**'s leadership, our class band Girth Wind and Tired or Sonic Danger (you choose your favorite) delivered three hours of danceable tunes. Our band included **Cori Josias**, **Dyann DelVecchio**, **John Farmer**, **Duke Lardon**, **Ritchie Porter**, **Mark Felsenthal**, **Dave Jaffray**, Bobo Sideli '77, **Beth Warfield**'s husband, Jeff Harding, and Dyann's husband, Dave Hilbern. There were also some very special background vocals by "The Towelettes" (**Blythe Hamer** and **Adele MacDonald Kristiansson**) and a cameo from Pharaoh **Pete Young**. The band had so much fun there are rumors of a bus purchase and a global tour. Special thanks go to Asa Phillips '79 for the video and photo support. Saturday started off with a well-attended session on "The Next Phase of Our Lives" led by **Mike Abend**, with several of our classmates sharing their thoughts on future plans. Later, many of us gathered for some remembrances at our memorial tree. Another group did a Snake Mountain hike. Our class pictures preceded the grand march up to Mead Chapel and Convocation. **Bern Terry** and **Katie Shepherd** delivered our class remarks in true style. The evening started with the giant tent dinner party at the "Lower Tent City" behind the Mahaney Center for the Arts. Our class closed the evening in our Gifford lounge, but we can't talk about that. The all-too-short weekend ended with a Sunday gathering at Bern and Katie's beautiful house in Lincoln. It was a very special weekend full of smiles, hugs, memories, and new friendships. We missed those who couldn't attend this time, but we hope we can see you next time! **Walter Burrier** submitted this great note on Reunion (thanks Walter!): "Dear classmates, I also, like so many of you, loved the 40th Reunion. I thought it was the best one I've been to—and I've been to six, having missed just 1983 and 2008—and, in a sense, almost the saddest because of the number of classmates we've lost. I'm very glad that we were able to honor them in front of Starr. But I loved the whole weekend! It was fantastic getting to know some of you whom I'd not seen for 40 years or had never or almost never interacted with, such as **Greg Wheeler**, **Jan Tropp Ground**, **Martha Lappen Pfeiffer**, and **Jeff Berry**. It was wonderful to reconnect with **Maureen Hays-Mitchell**, **Christa Lauridsen Oriol**, **Diane Singer**, **Mary Wyman**, **Nasi Raissian**, **Janet Behnken Rawlings**, **Bob Lloyd**, **Pete Levanovich**, **Greg Groth**, **Mark Felsenthal**, **Mary Tierney**, **Craig Wells**, **Mickey Kann**, **Peter Marshall**, and so many others! Everyone looked great. I got a lot of energy from all of you and you motivated me to keep on fighting and, ironically, to live in the present! A special thank-you to Bern and Katie for their wonderful brunch and to David Lally for his great film and to those who organized the hike up Snake Mountain and to the Saturday morning panel discussion led by **Jane Leggett**, **Adrian Benepe**, **Mike Abend**, and **Ann Merrell Slaughter**, and to **Jon Glascoe** for being so irreverent and brilliant, and to the absent **Anne Noble** for being our class "spokesperson" who has allowed us to communicate our thoughts. Thank you, Middlebury! Merci. Danke. Gracias. Grazie." • Please check our Facebook group Middlebury College Class of 1978 for more posts, photos, and videos. The group is private, but all class members will be accepted promptly.
—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (djaffray@mchsi.com); Anne Rowell Noble (anne.noble@gmail.com).

79

REUNION CLASS Welcome to the class notes "travel edition!" **William Grassie** joined the annual spring pilgrimage in the Southern California desert along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). He writes, "I section hiked 360 miles from the Mexican border to north of Los Angeles. I had four resupply stops and four zero-days in towns along the way. That seems like a big deal, 360

miles, but the hikers I left behind still had 2,300 miles to go to the Canadian border. I met so many wonderful characters along the trail. I was reminded of reading Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in a class with John Elder a few decades back. I hope to section hike the rest of the PCT, along with the Appalachian Trail, over the next few years. See you there?" • By coincidence, I (**Alice**) was in Edinburgh in June the same week as **Susan McCafferty**. Sue was on a trip to Scotland and Ireland with her family. She writes, "My grandmother emigrated to the U.S. after the 1916 Easter Uprising. Her seven siblings remained in Skibbereen. Though the last of her sibs has died, we still have cousins in Skibbereen and visited with them on our trip to Ireland. It was the highlight for me. My daughter Ashley's highlight was the Taylor Swift concert in Dublin!" • Since retiring in February 2017, **Pam Woodward** has been spending time traveling as much as possible! This year's adventures included a nine-week cruise with her 92-year-old mother to the Azores, Brittany, Normandy, Ireland, Estonia, Finland, St. Petersburg, Russia, and other ports. Pam especially enjoyed St. Petersburg, "with close runners-up being Glencolumkille, Ireland, and fresh oysters in the Normandy region of France. In Ireland we were able to find some of my mother's ancestors in the Kilkenny area, which was fun." • We'd love to hear other trip reports or your stories about special places. Here's one travel suggestion for 2019: come to Middlebury for our 40th Reunion in June! Encourage others to come! • The spring class news column of the *Middlebury Magazine* will be the last one for your current class correspondents. We have really enjoyed connecting and reconnecting with so many of you. We hope we've done a little for the Class of '79 community! With our Reunion approaching, please consider becoming a class correspondent. Debbie and I are happy to answer your questions or help you get started! • Meanwhile, check out a mini-reunion photo on page 77!

—Class Correspondents: Debbie Fish Butler (midd79dbutler@gmail.com); Alice Lee Openshaw (alice.openshaw@gmail.com).

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Please send me your news! Classmates want to know what you are up to. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 77!

—Class Correspondent: Anne Cowherd (annie.cowherd@att.net).

81

Michael Price writes, "I'm so sad to report a tremendous loss to our class. **John 'JB' Hayes** passed away in June after a courageous 18-month battle with ALS. JB will be remembered for his great sense of humor, mischievous smile, wisdom, and spirited energy. JB was also a captivating entertainer, known for his unique rendition of Rocky Raccoon and closing out every KDR party leading us in 'Rosalita.' He 'redshirted' so was a Panther linebacker for five years and was adored by his football teammates. So many Middlebury friends boosted up JB through his struggles, which he truly appreciated. Even during his sickness, JB was ever present, a listener, providing reliable advice to his friends. A final 'Rebel Yell' to JB Hayes. Rest in peace our friend." • See some photos of classmates on pages 61 and 70.

82

From **Sue Long Wemyss** came this: "My husband, Howie, and I are looking forward to being back in Middlebury the first weekend in November to attend the Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony. I am very honored to be inducted, and I'm even more pleased that Terry Aldrich, who coached me in cross-country running and track and got me going with my favorite sport of cross-country skiing, is also being inducted. We also look forward to seeing our friend and fellow Nordic skier John Morton '68, who is also being inducted." Congratulations, Sue! • **Sheila Creamer Mockett** and **Carolyn Weitz West** visited Sheila's mom recently in Syracuse, N.Y. Sheila still lives in Southern California and Carolyn in Rochester, N.Y. Sheila says, "It was fun to visit and for me to see so much green as I live in the desert. For Carolyn, it was just a great visit with me and my 93-year-old mom."

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo920@gmail.com); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).

83

It was great to see so many of us at our recent 35th (!!) Reunion. Funny how much younger we all look than the 35th Reunion class did when we were at Midd. It really was a fantastic weekend. There were many highlights (and perfect weather never hurts), but a special shout-out to Heidi and **Kevin Naughton** for a very special Friday night. The Naughtons have built a beautiful house on Cider Mill Road and graciously invited us all over for a lovely Friday night welcome-back-to-Midd dinner. The company was great, the hospitality unsurpassed, and the food delicious. Further, it was a real pleasure to see the care and attention that went into building that house and the pride that Kevin and Heidi take in the details of what was clearly a labor of love. Hopefully same time, same place in another five years! The weekend also included some great panel discussions, including one on change at Midd (from past to present and then future) that featured **Ted Truscott**. Ted and **Kat (O'Connor)** continue to epitomize the best of Midd with their generosity, enthusiasm, and continued commitment to participating in college life. Throughout the Reunion Weekend, it was great to see so many of us just sitting around enjoying each other! At one point, I (**Allison**) saw **Victoria Seiden Gonin**, **Harriet Bishop Bakken**, **Kat Truscott**, **Terry Epstein**, and **Ruth Kennedy** having a meal together, outside a dining hall on Sunday morning, and I wasn't sure if I was seeing past or present! It was also so nice to catch up with so many of us (**Peter** and **Siobhan Leahy Ulrich**, this means you), but also **Wendy Willis Smith**, **Kim Kiner**, **Kathy Pelton Murphy**, **John** and **Carolyn Kuntz Morrison**, **Julie Greer Kelly**, **Dana Houlihan**, **Jack Bousa**, **Carey MacFarland Lennox**, **Tom Wertimer**, **John Alexander**, **Pam Chasek**, **Pascal Borno**, **Javier Damien**, **Sue Parsons Ritter**, **Peter** and **Bunny Mauran Merrill**, **Scott Laughinghouse**, and many others! • At this stage, it seems like we are all doing interesting things, watching our kids do interesting things, or just enjoying ourselves a little bit more. **Dan Elish** recently had yet another book published—*The Royal Order of the Fighting Dragons*. It looks great and we know that Danny would be happy for more sales. And, Dan also has a new off-Broadway musical, *The Evolution of Mann*, which opened in September. Whoo whoo! Dan and **Maria Padian** very cleverly represented our class at Reunion Convocation. • **Charlie Tercek** reports that, after 30 years in advertising and entertainment, he has started a new career as a high school English instructor and is teaching 9th and 11th graders at a boarding school in the Los Angeles area. He hopes to one day be as inspiring as Middlebury professors like Hill, Pack, and Carney (but never quite so intimidating!) and gives "big thanks to my Jewett House roommate (and teacher extraordinaire) **Kevin Cummins**, who guided me through the transition." • **Harriette Brainard** is involved in a new venture focusing on environmental education. **Jane Ogden** is happily selling real estate around Middlebury and looks as fit as ever! **Mark Mulvaney** said he is starting law school. Maybe one day he'll join **Danny Kagan**, who is happily still practicing law in Maine and enjoying the skiing, boating life. And congrats to **Donna Kinney** on her recent wedding and to the ever-growing number of you that are now grandparents! • And what I know you have all been waiting for—**Bob Norberg** informs me (**Allison**) that he and I have played more than 1,000 rounds of "words with friends" together. **Paige Fronapfel Bart** and **Deb Varnum Tong** are other devoted fans, although it's unclear if either has found a Midd partner willing to hit the big 1,000 with them. Any others interested in joining our obsession are welcome! • In any event, there were many interesting conversations and mini-reunions over the course of Reunion Weekend. There's not enough room here to update on everyone, but it was great to see each and every one of you. Hope to see everyone and more in five years. In the meantime, please keep the updates coming. Everyone loves to hear about what everyone else is doing. Keep us in the loop! And don't forget the Middlebury College Class of 1983 Facebook page. • Check out a mini-reunion on page 84!

—Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).

ClassActs

84

REUNION CLASS **Henry Labalme**, **Brenda Grassey**, **Kathy Daniels**, and **Lissie Rodriguez Chandler** have formed MASSDIVEST: Middlebury Alumni Supporting Students for Divestment. The purpose is to show alumni support for the recent SGA referendum to divest Middlebury's endowment from fossil fuels (a national movement that began at Middlebury), which passed with 80 percent approval and 68 percent student participation. Alumni from other class years interested in supporting this student-led effort, please contact henrylabalme@gmail.com. • Hodgson Russ announced that **Mike Maxwell** was recognized in the 2018 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for his work in litigation. • Please put June 7–9 on your calendar for our 35th Reunion!

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Eppes Winton (ewinton@mac.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).

85

Andrea Koppel-Pollack writes, "At age 54, I became the proud single parent of my second 'child,' who arrived into this wonderful world kicking and screaming (actually humming and talking) in the wee hours of August 15. And, like my human child who arrived three weeks early, my tech baby has arrived a week earlier than expected! Fortunately, this one won't require me to wake up every few hours through the night to change its diaper and feed it. So, cigars and champagne all around—it's a brand-new PODCAST! It's called Time4Coffee and its mission is to democratize the entry into the global job marketplace, especially for 18–25-year-olds. Created and hosted by me, each episode explores one of dozens of different careers through interviews with dynamic professionals from the entry level up to the C-suite. Time4Coffee also showcases experts in health, wellness, and self-care because what good is it to get a job you love if your physical and/or mental health sucks? I'd be so grateful if you would please share this message with your children, nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues and please spread the word over your social channels and ask them to subscribe, rate, and review the Time4Coffee podcast. You can visit time4coffee.org for more info. And, dear classmates, please email me at Andreakp@mac.com with your ideas and suggestions as to who I should interview next!"

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Lohmann Davis (ruth.davis63@gmail.com); Denah Lohmann Toupin (denaht@comcast.net).

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Ann McCollum ventured on a great cycling journey from Lhasa, Tibet, to Kathmandu, Nepal, this past June. She cycled 16 days, crossing passes over 16,000 feet. She had vehicle support and camped in sites with unbelievable vistas. Ann noted that the people are lovely and she especially enjoyed the moment when she had a can of Red Bull passed to her from a passing vehicle as she climbed her first pass. • **Rich Knab** reports that his day job is focused on K-12 education in the Galápagos Islands and that one of the very important supporters of this work is the mother of **Frank Muggia**. • **Sarah Malm** reports that in July, she moved to Pretoria, South Africa. She joined USAID as a senior advisor to Power Africa. Launched by President Obama in 2013, Power Africa works with African governments and private sector partners to promote sustainable energy development in sub-Saharan Africa. Sarah says come and visit! • **Michael Rawding** is still based in Seattle. He started his own advisory business to help U.S. tech companies land and expand in China and Japan. He loves the work and is very busy. Michael's son just graduated with a master's in urban planning from Harvard's Graduate School of Design and will work at NYC Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development. Daughter Maddie has spent the last year in Beijing working for a local environmental NGO. Michael looks forward to seeing folks in Seattle. • **Jon Peterson** was named CEO of Peterson Companies this past spring, succeeding his father, Milt Peterson '58. The company was founded 52 years ago and is one of the largest privately held real estate companies in the Washington, D.C., area. One of their landmark projects, National Harbor, is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and Jon oversees its impressive development. He and wife Anne Davis Peterson '85 have three sons, Chris '13, Tim, and Nick '18. • Happy that summer had finally arrived in Vermont, **Heather Pierce Post**, **Ashley Bourne Dewey**, and **Wendy Fisher Beach** gathered at Heather's Dog Team/New Haven River home to catch up in June. Come visit y'all!

—Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).

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Sharon Ballard Richardson spoke at the Charleston (S.C.) Library Society on birds, bird habitats, and public policy, sharing Audubon's original vision that today inspires restoration of habitat to create safe places for birds and people, now and into the future. Sharon, the executive director of South Carolina Audubon, has helped protect over 30,000 acres of land and has raised more than $8 million to aid conservation efforts. With her team, she has leveraged more than $50 million in land projects. • Twenty-five years after its inception, DIAVOLO | Architecture in Motion continues to be a cultural pillar of the Los Angeles community and has performed for hundreds of thousands of concertgoers worldwide, and millions more on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Artistic director **Jacques Heim** steers DIAVOLO's diverse team of dancers, designers, choreographers, and engineers to create works that reveal how we are affected emotionally, physically, and socially by the spaces we inhabit. Through the DIAVOLO Institute the company also provides educational and outreach opportunities to people of all ages and abilities while touring and at home in Los Angeles, sharing the pioneering art form and the power of dance as a means of social impact. In 2016 DIAVOLO created the Veterans Project, which utilizes DIAVOLO's unique style of movement as a tool to help restore veterans' physical, mental, and emotional strengths through workshops and public performances nationwide. In February 2018, the DIAVOLO touring company and the Veterans Project had the rare opportunity to perform at the prestigious Eisenhower Theater at the Kennedy Center and in 2019, Jacques and his company dancers will begin creation on *Heroes*. This full evening concert piece, inspired by the Veterans Project, will celebrate the stories of the brave men and women who have served. • **Kymberly Pinder,** a dean at the UNM College of Fine Arts, was profiled in *Albuquerque Business First* as a "New Mexican to Know." In 2007, she was a scholar in residence at the New Mexico Georgia O'Keeffe Research Center. In 2012, Kymberly moved to New Mexico from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After Middlebury, she received a master's and PhD from Yale University, and today works closely with the mayor's office and public art program to increase UNM student and faculty engagement.

—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).

88

Hello '88ers! We missed you at Reunion this past June, but those of us who were there had a blast! **Alex Draper** did us proud, introducing the Class of '88 at Convocation. **Sarah Thompson Fulkerson** and **Sheila D'Arcy Boyle** (and others!) put together a great program, including a lovely memorial service for our departed classmates. **Anya Puri Brunnick**, a college counselor at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., presented to the parents at the annual college admissions workshop, organized by the Middlebury Admissions Office, and **Clark Munnell** and his daughter showed up ready to learn! We celebrated dance professor Andrea Olsen's retirement and **Sybil McCarthy Hadfield** spoke eloquently about finding joy, intellectual and creative energy, and tremendous faculty support in the Theatre, Dance, and Film Department. We heard about incredible efforts in sustainability at Midd; toured the new venues on campus; got inspired by the Alumni Achievement Award recipients; and danced, danced, danced on Saturday night to the sounds of the band the Grift. With beautiful weather and lots of time to relax, we shared many stories over the weekend, as we lounged around on the grass outside of our home base of Painter Hall. We went back to Proctor for meals, purchased lots of good swag at the bookstore, went on great runs, walks, and bike rides, and most important, we reconnected with each other and with the College. • We also got some news to share. **Marnie Cunningham Terhune** joined the burgeoning ranks of Midd '88ers in

college counseling when she began work at the Phillips Exeter college counseling office this past summer. • **Paolo Bonetti** has made a move, too. He writes, "After two years at Made In Nature, I have moved back to Madhava Natural Sweeteners as supply chain director. I've also spent the past two years on the board of a local Boulder, Colo., nonprofit, Growing Gardens, which offers community gardens, teenage-managed Community Supported Agriculture, children's camps, and various educational programs." His kids are growing fast—two are in high school and one in middle school. No surprise that all of Paolo's kids are bi- or trilingual! "My eldest, Giacomo, plays fiddle in a bluegrass band and is on the Boulder High School student council. My youngest, Mario, is a drummer in a local kid band. My daughter, Isobel, is a pianist and singer. In April 2016, our family climbed Gokyo Ri, a 17,500-foot peak in the Solokhumbu region of the Nepalese Himalayas." So, the rest of us and our kids better pick up our games, huh?

—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).

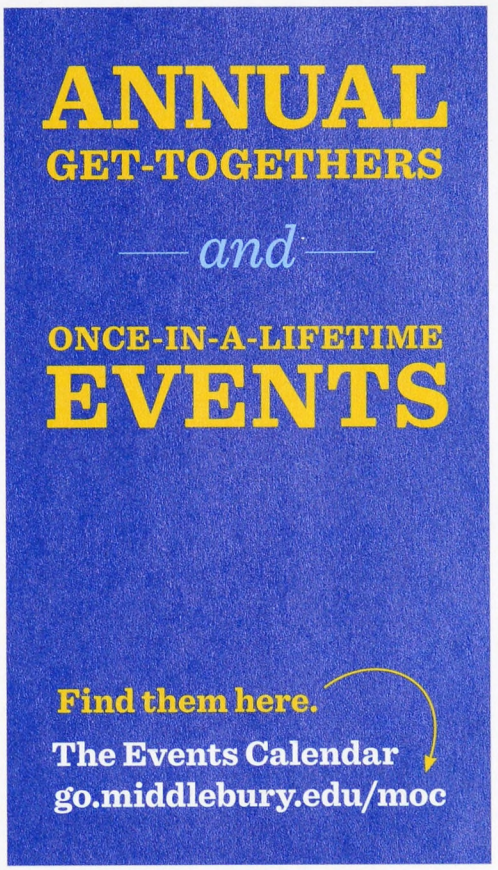
89

REUNION CLASS After many years doing development work for a local land trust, **Kristen Lindquist** is now working as a bookkeeper and freelance writer in her hometown of Camden, Maine. She has published three books of poetry, one of which was a finalist for a Maine Literary Award, and Garrison Keillor read three of her poems on "The Writer's Almanac." She teaches the occasional class (currently, haiku workshops) and writes a natural history column for the local paper. She is a sometime birding guide, as well, and was the first female member of the Maine Bird Records Committee. She has been married for 15 years to novelist Paul Doiron. She regularly visits **Susan Palmer** in Montpelier, Vt., where Susan is working as a successful leadership coach. • **George Baxter** has been living in the San Francisco area since '99, doing the start-up thing—over and over and over again. He still has panic attacks thinking about college tuitions for his children, Camden (10), Calvin (10), and Chiara (6), so that sort of tells you how the start-ups have been doing. He's coming up on 20 years married to Mirella Bucci (CMU), a biologist working for the Nature Publishing Group. • **Penny Post** writes from Connecticut, where she lives with husband Deron Chang '90 and children Abbie (16) and Cal (12). Penny continues to work at Protein Sciences Corp. in Meriden, where she's been for the past 18 years, most recently as VP, regulatory, and where she led the regulatory team that brought the world's first recombinant influenza vaccine (Flublok) to market in the U.S. Deron continues to teach science at Choate Rosemary Hall and recently took on the role of director of curricular initiatives. Abbie kept them busy this past summer visiting colleges, including Midd, and Cal is booking up their fall for high school visits. Penny keeps in close contact with **George Baxter** and hopes to see him more frequently than at Midd reunions. In addition to hanging out with close Choate campus friends Ben '93 and Kelly Rivers Small '93 and Leslie Virostek '88, Penny sees John Watson '90 regularly and enjoyed a visit from Jessika Nugent Welch '90 this year. Penny says, "Looking forward to seeing a lot of classmates at our 30th! (This means you this time, **Jay Abella**.)" • **Mac King** finally achieved his goal set senior year and became a king. He's currently ruling a small island in the South Pacific, though his subjects are mostly coconuts. His kingdom has declared war on New Zealand in order to expand his realm, though the war is not going well as apparently the declaration was lost in the mail and New Zealand has no idea what he's going on about. Also, coconuts make poor soldiers. His kingly advice is that unless you want something made up about you in the next *Middlebury Magazine*, send your updates to **George Baxter**. • Check out a lacrosse mini-reunion photo on page 70. • Everyone start making your travel plans for our Reunion in the spring; 30 years—doesn't seem that long ago does it?

—Class Correspondent: George Baxter (george.baxter@me.com).

90

Amy Leith writes, "I'm still in NYC at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, running marketing for global markets. My son, Nikolas, recently turned 12 and finished the sixth grade at the United Nations International School, where he performed in the middle school musical *Xanadu*." She was planning to connect over the summer with **Kimberly Bradley** in Salzburg and Jennifer Brown Buller, MA German '91 in Dublin. • **Art McAleer** and wife Annette live in Newfields, N.H. Their son, Ian, runs track at Connecticut College and they get a huge kick out of seeing friend and former coach Martin Beatty '84 ("the most awesome Panther coach ever") at track meets where Midd and Conn College are together. Daughter Camilla (15) is also a track athlete, taking after her father and brother. Art runs a company called Federal Street Acquisition Corp, which focuses on healthcare company acquisition. "I've been having fun with powerlifting. I qualified for the USAPL National Championship meet this October. I'll likely get trashed by the real competitors, but it'll be fun to get in there and mix it up nonetheless." Art and **Rob Hansen,** Hepburn freshman roommates, took a fantastic sailing adventure with three other friends, celebrating their 50th birthdays. They departed from St. Lucia and finished 150 nautical miles later in Grenada, having seen multiple ports of call and lots of coral reefs. High seas and strong winds made sailing a fast endeavor and left lots of time for exploring. • **Mike "McGuire" Bowe** and his family returned to familiar ground, Stuttgart, Germany, in 2016, after 13 wonderful years living across three continents, in Malaysia, Qatar, and Brazil. Mike teaches middle school EAL, English literature, and drama at the multilingual International School of Stuttgart, with German and English in most classes and quite a few other languages represented in the halls and in the classroom conversations. Mike's wife teaches English and biology in a local Realschule (middle school). Mike says, "I'm truly enjoying the challenges of putting on a yearly musical with 6th–10th graders, as well as working with younger students, more than I did when teaching IB Diploma language and literature at my previous international schools." Their daughter, Kira, graduated from the IB Diploma and is studying international primary school education at Stenden Univ. in Holland. (Hmmm, an adventure-oriented international school teacher; wonder where she got that from?) She hopes to also teach drama, as she has been a leading actress at her schools over the years. Their son, Julian, is entering the IB Diploma Grade 11, focusing on physics and math, hoping to study engineering after his graduation in two years. He is a track standout and is learning his sixth instrument! Mike is re-energized to improve his music knowledge and skills (jazz, voice) by studying with some great local pros. He still enjoys daily practicing on piano, guitar, bass, and drums, and hopes to get his stage skills back with some open mics in the future. He is also re-



turning to tennis after a year off (Achilles tendon tear) and running the local half-marathon. Mike invites any classmates passing through to come and stay at their big house in Stuttgart. Alternatively, the family visits Brunswick, Maine, every July, so please get in touch (mikebowe123@gmail.com)! • **Harry Weekes** finished his 26th year of teaching and recently joined the Board of the Society for Human Ecology. Raised on the East Coast until the ripe age of three, Harry moved to Idaho in 1972. He studied environmental science, biology and studio art at Middlebury and earned his graduate degree in life science from the Univ. of Maryland in College Park. "After teaching at my former high school for 17 years, I left and founded the Sage School (an independent, grades 6–12 school) in Hailey, Idaho, where we now enter our 10th year as a school, and my 10th year as Head of School. This is mostly astonishing to me, someone who never thought he would teach, much less run a business, much less found and head a school. I live where I have lived for 47 years—within five miles of the same mountain and within 10 miles of sister Liza '87, brother Jack and his family, sister Nancy '92 and her family, and my mother (Class of 1964). My dad (Class of 1963) is 70 miles away. Next year is the first year I will have all three of my kids in school with me: Georgia (17) will be a senior, Penelope (15) a sophomore, and Simon (12) in seventh grade. I continue to be confused by the fact that this year I will be 50, mostly because I thought I would feel so much more mature as an adult. I am, probably like everyone, doing what I can to make sense of the world, and looking for those leverage points where I can make a difference. I hope I give nearly as much to my students as they give to me, and in the successional planning that is probably at the root of all education, I hope I'm doing a good job of helping students appreciate the curiosity and wonder of the world in which we live. There is a lot of doom and gloom out there, but hope burns brightly in teenagers and they are magical medicine." Harry has served on the board of directors of the local Hunger Coalition, and is on the development team of Quigley Farm, dedicated to building a thriving and restorative community through collaborations and partnerships that produce sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits. Besides three children, Harry has a wonderful wife, a dog, two cats, and a smattering of chickens. • **Kirsten Keppel** teaches French at FSI (the Foreign Service Institute), which is part of the State Department, and trains diplomats in various languages before their postings. She was also one of three 2017 finalists for the Russo Brothers Italian American Film Forum presented by the National Italian American Foundation and the Italian Sons and Daughters of America. Kristen's documentary film, *Ringraziamenti: The Saint Joseph's Day Table Tradition,* was not ultimately chosen for top honors but she did win a $7,500 grant.
—Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdougm@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).

91

Marc Bujold writes, "At the end of the summer, wife Jill (Herbster) '89 and I moved from South Burlington, Vt., to Stratham, N.H. (near the seacoast). We're closer to her family, which is important as we became instant empty nesters this fall when our twin girls went off to college. They chose to go to schools in urban settings (Helen at Northeastern in Boston and Sophie at the Univ. of Edinburgh in Scotland) so sadly Middlebury was never really a contender. We are thrilled for them but were sad to see them go. I am wrapping up my first year as Northeast sales lead for FedEx Cross Border, a technology solution helping brands and retailers sell from their websites to overseas consumers. In the last year, I have visited with classmates **Bob Anderson**, **Anthony Storm**, **Mark Ely**, **Paul Wilcox**, and **Andrew Peach**." • Check out a photo of a classmate in a lacrosse mini-reunion photo on page 70.
—Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).

92

Peter Walsh was recently elected to two-year terms as vice-chair and leaders in giving chair of the Fund for Legal Aid, the fundraising arm for Minnesota Legal Aid. His election puts him in line to assume the role of chairman in 2020. He most recently served as treasurer. He is a partner with Hogan Lovells.
—Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (lesliepagnotta917@gmail.com).

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I (**Maria**) was sorry I couldn't attend our 25th Reunion. I asked friends who were there to write some highlights of the weekend for our class notes. **Olga Jackson Koecher** helped me out! She writes, "We had a great first night (Thursday) at Mr. Up's followed by a late night at Two Brothers—a group of at least 30 people came in Thursday. It was fun to start seeing old faces in our gathering lounge at Atwater. Friday night we had a well-attended dinner where **John Atherton** and I honored our classmates that have passed away. That was followed by a fun dance party DJ'd by Matt Longman '89, which included a whole catalog of '80s dance music, and then a late, late night party at Coltrane Lounge. Saturday was enjoyed different ways but included a hike, golf scramble, and then lunch at President Patton's. There was an impromptu get-together on Battell Field. A lot of people brought their kids, who made new friends among themselves. Then we had the parade up to Mead Chapel; our 25th Reunion speech at Convocation was given by **Michael Beckwith**. The dinner under the tents was great and again well attended, and was followed by some beer pong in the parking lot and then a mini jam session that included some music by **Trevor Crist**, **Eric Sevigny**, and **Randy Weiner**. (You can see my Facebook video I posted of that evening.) One HUGE HIGHLIGHT: We surpassed our class gift goal of $2 million, with 45 percent of the class participating! So our class won the Raymond A. Ablondi '52 Cup for the Reunion class with the largest total class gift. Thanks to all the Reunion volunteers who made that happen and made the weekend a success. The weekend was enjoyed by 205 classmates and their guests (total of 295 attendees), who came from as far as Alaska/Peru/Norway/Sweden/Amsterdam/Ukraine, among other places. The Facebook Reunion page was incredibly successful with so many contributing old pictures of Midd that helped ramp up the nostalgia for our years. And on top of everything, the weather was incredible." • **Mash Alexander** sent an update. He spent the summer working as a climbing guide at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Wyoming, which he also did last summer. "Before that I was middle school English and social studies teacher at the Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica, where I own a home and teach English and facilitate retreats for combat veterans and their families. I no longer teach at Monteverde; we are starting a program in Costa Rica called Peaceful Mountain. Check it out at thepeacefulmountain.com."
—Class Correspondent: Maria Diaz (latinawriting@gmail.com).

94

REUNION CLASS **Sujatha Menon Zafar** and her family are moving back to NYC after nine years in London. Her older son is a sophomore at Midd, and her younger son just deferred admission at Midd until 2019 and will be taking a gap year. • **Yana Minnis Beranek** moved to New York City after selling her UX consultancy in Kansas City. There, she joined GfK, running their offices in NYC and Boston. Yana would love to connect with Midd friends in either city. She says she is loving the hum of the city, living in Manhattan near Central Park. • **T Cooper**'s documentary, *Man Made,* was chosen to be screened at the fourth annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in August. The remarkable film, which follows the lives of four transgender men as they compete in the only all-trans bodybuilding competition in the world, won the jury award for Best Documentary Feature at the Atlanta Film Festival.
—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).

95

Andrew Hayes has designed and built a new home (ridgelinehouse on *Instagram*) in Yarmouth, Maine, with wife Ann (Amstutz) '96, and their children, Owen (11) and Brooklyn (9). Andrew hopes to design more Passive Houses in Maine and beyond with his design firm, ECHOSTUDIO. Ann is the senior vice president of Partnerships at Scholastic, where she has worked for the past 20 years. She works remotely from Yarmouth but can often be found in NYC and Washington, D.C.
—Class Correspondents: David Diamonon (ddiamonon@yahoo.com); Terra Reilly (sansivera@gmail.com).

96

Please send me your news! Classmates want to know what you are up to!

—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).

97

Please send us your latest updates! We want to hear from you!

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).

98

We had a great Reunion Weekend, with 171 classmates returning to campus. If anyone has any good stories from the weekend, send them to us so we can get them in the next issue.

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com).

99

REUNION CLASS Please put the date for our 20th Reunion on your calendar—June 7–9, 2019!

—Class Correspondents: Melissa Pruessing (mpruessing@yahoo.com); Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

00

Hope everyone had a great summer and that you're enjoying fall in your corners of the world. Classmates have checked in with news from near and far. • In New York, **Andi Como** has joined the Capital Markets group at Asgard Partners and Co. as a managing director. Previously, he was part of the hedge funds coverage group at RBC Capital Markets. • **Terry Wetterman** also has exciting work news: he has joined a new firm called APT Fund Advisory as a founding partner. APT provides capital raising and other related advisory services to the private equity markets. Terry writes, "We are a small firm with four very experienced professionals. I look forward to hearing from Midd alums who are looking to spin out and form their own firm!" • Congratulations to **Isaac Ro** and Megan Donahue, who were married on January 13, 2018, at the University Club of New York. Isaac says, "As expected, the Middlebury crowd made a strong showing. Special thanks to all the parents who left behind kids/newborns to attend and the expecting moms who still rocked the dance floor! Special recognition to the ultimate frisbee-er who photo bombed the group photo with a vintage pink shirt. Hope to see you all at the 20th!" • While on a work trip in California, **Pete Falcier** checked out "Midd West Coast": the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, where he ran into an IT guy who also happened to be the brother of the owner of Bette Midler's rescue dog. • What crazy stories have happened to you? Send me an update!

—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (jennifercrystalwriter@gmail.com).

01

Dan Goldman married Morgan Cronin (Williams '07) on May 5 at Campovida Winery in Hopland, Calif. Several Middlebury friends were in attendance, including **Chris** and Ashley Sullivan '02 **Everett**, **Doug Parobeck**, **C. Ryan Miller**, **Brad Pryba**, **Mike Kerkorian**, **Tom Koelbl**, and **Tejas Parikh**. Dan and Morgan continue to live in San Francisco, where Dan recently left McKinsey to take over as vice president of strategy at the North Face. • **Jason Ienner** is now a partner in a new restaurant, Oxomoco, in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y. • **Mike Hartt** writes, "I've been in London for nearly six years, and I received my permanent residency in December 2017, a big step towards dual citizenship that involved passing a British history test of truly obscure trivia. Friends in the States say I've picked up an English accent, while mates here insist I will forever sound like an American. In mid-2017, I switched jobs to become the head of international affairs at FleishmanHillard in London, leading our communications and public affairs work for foreign governments, NGOs, and multilateral bodies on geopolitical, economic, and humanitarian issues. It was a great change and I'm loving the new gig. Before that, I spent a great month in Italy, mostly in Puglia, Tuscany, and Cinque Terre enjoying wine, food, photography, and beautiful towns and coastlines. The study abroad experience I never had at Middlebury! Life is a good mix of travel, supporting a local football club (soccer team), and so on. If anyone is passing through London, get in touch for a pint."

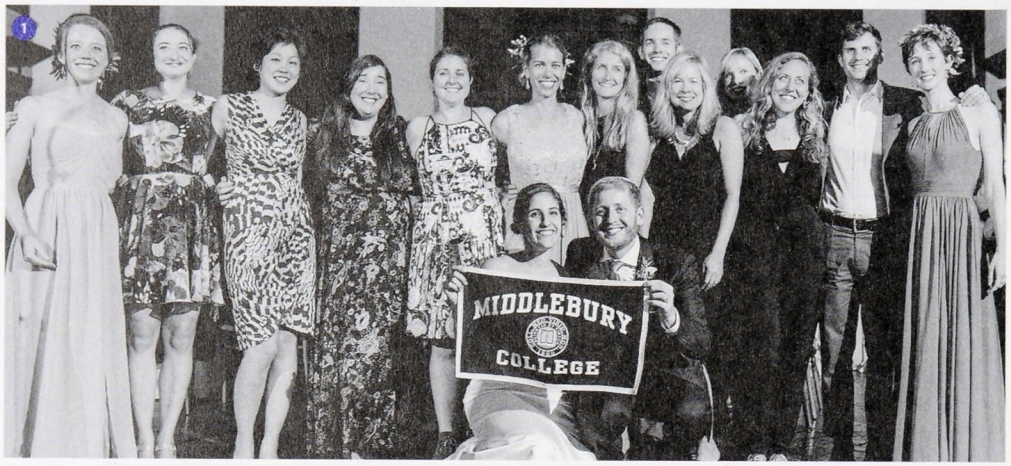
—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).

02

This edition marks one full year under the reign of your new class correspondents, **Eric Devon** and **Morgan Jones**, so we wanted to start our run of updates with two notable and notorious alumni members who held down the '02 class correspondent gig for almost 15 years: **Anne Alfano** and **Stephen Messinger**. Please take it away in your own words, before we delve into the rest of the group. • **Anne Alfano** married Blair Barrett in Toledo, Spain, in May 2018. Some of the guests mistakenly routed to Toledo, Ohio, but this did not stop the party! The wedding took place in a stunning 16th-century villa overlooking the old city of Toledo, where guests dined on gazpacho, jamón, foie gras, and "cream of some young guy." Maid of honor, **Katharine Wolf**, celebrated the bride and groom with a radiant speech, where she forced the bride to sing a solo in front of all her guests with zero accompaniment or warm-up. Other Midd alums in attendance included **Lauren Cacciapaglia Sargent**, **Amanda Smeal**, **Emily Hatch**, **Pace Ralli**, **Kirsten Sichler Webb**, **Sasha Gentling**, **Megan Sands-Lincoln**, **Stella Harman**, and **Kyle Wheale MacDougall**. The evening before the wedding, Kyle MacDougall and Emily Hatch were reportedly caught by hotel staff sneaking into the hotel kitchen late night to find hidden snacks. Luckily, they were not deported. The bride and groom later honeymooned in Menorca, Bordeaux, and Toulouse. • From **Stephen Messinger** comes this: "Two months after our 15th Reunion in 2017, my special lady friend Lauren Messinger gave birth to Lucy Louise Messinger at home in an inflatable tub in the dining room in our condo in Jamaica Plain, Mass. Everyone is doing great and big sister Penelope is currently running a tight ship. Lucy Lou is ready to start walking and talking any day now (as of this writing in July 2018)! On June 25, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh officially cut the ribbon at the Urban Farming Institute's new headquarters, a .7-acre urban farm in the residential neighborhood of Mattapan. The oldest farmhouse in Boston, badly damaged and collapsing, was structurally stabilized and rehabilitated by Perkins+Will with me (**Stephen**) serving as the project architect and manager. UFI, which develops abandoned properties in the heart of Boston and turns them into vibrant microfarms, offers green-collar jobs training, educational programming, and farm-to-table entrepreneurial opportunities." • After our 15th Reunion, **Melissa de Oliveira Smith**

BIG
CELEBRATIONS
and
MINI
REUNIONS

Find them here.
The Events Calendar
go.middlebury.edu/moc



1 On October 8, 2017, Jackie Hurwitz '07 married Jacob Baskin (Brown '08) at Sailors' Snug Harbor in Staten Island, N.Y. The guests who joined the couple (in front) included (all '07 unless noted) Alison Brown, Devi Glick, Sannie Lee, Alexandra Romero, Elise Shanbacker, Sara Granstrom, Heidi Zecher Burke '93, Keith Williams, Amy Bucher '87, Erica Goodman '06, Ashley Szczesiak '08, Doug Hale, and Sharyn Korey. 2 Kristin Fraser '07 and Dorian Geisler (UC Berkeley '06) were married on October 14, 2017, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, Mich. Friends who helped them celebrate included (all '07 unless noted) Claire Ojima, Sara Lowes, Jessica Chao, French School '05, Anna Wishart, the newlyweds, Kylie Marks Danielson, Matty Van Meter, Colleen Fitzharris, Paul Doyle, Mateo Fisher, and Myra Palmero. 3 Jeff Sturges '70 and Rob Apple '70 both attended the Middlebury ski patrol reunion at the Snow Bowl in March.

4 Friends from the Class of 1983 and a spouse walked half of the remote 1,000-mile Shikoku Buddhist 88 temple pilgrimage together: Betsy Kepes (Williams '82), Mark Larsen, Tom Van de Water, and Jeanne Hammond Larsen. 5 Mark Shimrock '09 married Kiera Murasko-Blank in Philadelphia, Pa., on November 18, 2017, with friends from the Class of 2009 attending including Andrew Matson, Matt Joseph, Tim Dillon, the newlyweds, Rob Palladino, Dave Miranowski, Peter Bourdon, Steve Shortle, and Bill Zrike.

and husband Tyler welcomed baby boy Alder Alston Smith on September 5, 2017. Melissa went back to work last February with Windermere Real Estate, selling homes in western Washington State. She also joined a start-up called Latitude 35 Events & Adventures, which specializes in tailored corporate events and group adventures around the world. • *Jeopardy!* alert! **Lisa McAndrews** and **Ashley Elpern Chapman** both appeared on *Jeopardy!* this past year. Lisa's episode aired on January 1 and Ashley's aired on April 3. If you missed them on first airing, keep your eye out for syndication and check your local listings. How did they get so good at trivia and phrasing answers in the form of questions? Lisa and Ashley spent several years on a trivia team in Boston with **Chris Ramsey**, Carolyn Hely '99, **Justin** and **Caitlin Corey Dreschler**, and Emily Loesche '05. • **Paige Ellwood Keller** is living in Wilmette, Ill., with husband Billy. Paige and Bill were honored to welcome their first kiddo, William Tiberius Keller ("Tiber"), in May 2018. The new parents are currently exhausted and over the moon! • **Karisa Peer** reports that she founded Mother Squad in August 2017. The new venture is explained in Karisa's own words: "We are a video-chat support group platform for expectant and new moms across the U.S. All our groups are facilitated by licensed therapists who are also new moms." For any new or expectant moms who are curious to learn more, please visit www.mothersquad.com. • **Seth Coffrin** just bought a new house in Portland, Ore., with a bigger yard (according to him—and um, relative to what?) and more room for a new Coffrin baby boy. Theodore John Coffrin arrived in July 2018, slightly late but right on time. He joins daughter Chloe, who is three. Seth is also enjoying making (and marketing) shoes at KEEN. The company sent a robot that can make a pair of shoes in under four minutes to West Coast engineering and design college campuses, with an East Coast tour scheduled soon. • **Laura Burke Studley** is opening a yoga studio, The Village Oasis, for children and their caregivers on Cabot Street in Beverly, Mass. The studio will offer classes from prenatal through puberty, restorative yin, and grandparent classes, as well as a gamut of parenting and pediatric wellness workshops. Laura would love to hear from any yogi alumni! Check out her new studio on Facebook and at TheVillageOasis.com. • **Kimya Gharib** reports that she started a new job in mid-March as corporate partnerships manager with Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ), the nonprofit arm of Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. She works on bringing in partners and sponsors, mostly for special events at the zoo. Kimya's son and daughter both think she has the coolest job! Other news came from Kimya out of the District: **Meredith Bazirgan** came for a visit in April, and then Kimya got to hang with **Elinor Roberts Kotchen** at their 20th high school reunion in May. Kimya also saw **Katie Angelo Pierozzi** in July, when she was back in the U.S. for a visit. Hopefully some of you were able to catch a

glance of Katie on tour! • **Anna Hastings** and husband Jean-Rémy welcomed their second child, Marcel, on April 15, 2018. His older sister Lucienne (2) has adjusted well to his arrival, as have his parents. Anna started her ninth year at St. Andrew's this fall as a college counselor and English teacher. More from Anna: "I love it when my students end up at Midd, though it has started to make me realize how long ago we graduated!" Well, with our 17th reunion year on the horizon, I guess we'll end this fall update with that cold, harsh reality. • But according to psychologists and other paid professionals, writing to your class correspondents can make you feel young again! So, please send in your updates every few months directly to our special class email address: middlebury02@gmail.com. Please send us your funny stories, life updates, and of course—pictures!

—Class Correspondents: Eric Devon (edevon@gmail.com); Morgan Jones (morganjones25@gmail.com).

03

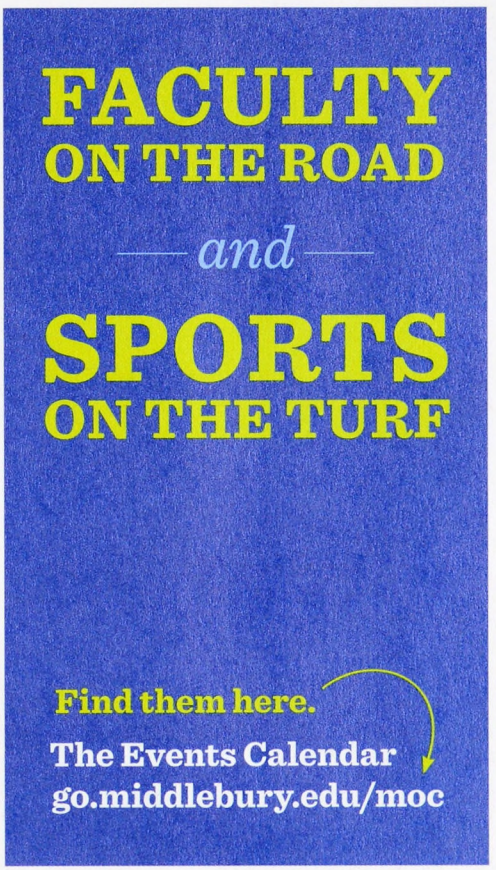
The Class of '03 was well represented by friends from across the country (and Canada, too!) at #reunion2018. Classmates noted that while Midd has changed in many ways, so much has remained the same. We felt right at home all over again strolling through McCulloch and the Grille, walking up the hill to Mead Chapel, partying at Mr. Up's and checking out the new Anderson Freeman Resource Center, which held a lovely memorial where we remembered our friends who have passed. We had fun reminiscing, dancing, chatting, and watching the '03 children get involved in the many activities available for them across campus. The diversity and enthusiasm of our class stood out and will hopefully be an inspiration to current and future Midd students about love and friendship across difference, fostered during our time at Midd. • **Anna Ostenso Moore** sent an update: "I'd like to share with the Class of 2003 that I authored my first picture book, *Today Is a Baptism Day*, which was published by Church Publishing in September. It's a book to be read with children to wonder and learn about baptism with illustrations that reflect the diversity of God's people."

—Class Correspondents: Nathan Davis (davis.nm@gmail.com); Janine Knight-Grofe (jknightgrofe@gmail.com).

04

REUNION CLASS After four years in Seattle as a clinical quality specialist for UW Medicine, **Christopher Richards** is excited about a move back to New England! This fall, he is pursuing a healthcare MBA at the Univ. of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Management and has accepted a Business Innovation Fellowship at the Institute of Applied Life Sciences. • **Kate Bushman** spends her days combating climate change as an energy-efficiency researcher at Cadeo Group. By night, she does her part to keep international diplomacy alive as the executive director of the Portland-Bologna Sister City Association. • After almost a decade in the nonprofit publishing industry, **Dorothy Resig Willette** is grateful to be at home raising two young sons with her husband, Matt. In her spare time (ha ha), she works as a freelance editor and sings at church on the weekends. Although still an upstate New Yorker at heart, Dorothy has lived in the D.C. area since graduation and is coming to grips with the fact that her children are officially Southerners. • **Bernadette Gunn Rhodes** lives in North Little Rock, Ark., with husband Jeremy and two young sons. She has worked for the City of North Little Rock since 2011, first as wellness coordinator, then as director of the city's 60,000-square-foot senior recreation center, a job for which mothering toddlers has prepared her excellently. Bernadette is also pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has no hobbies (see above). • Following a tenure as digital TV editor for *People* magazine, which netted a print cover story, **Lanford Beard** has transitioned from raking the muck to serving as editorial director for Ralph Lauren's global employee intranet. Though she's no longer leveraging her love of trash TV professionally, she still finds her way into Housewives events in New York City occasionally—just in much more stylish ensembles. • After pursuing a career as an archivist, **Katie Curler Shoults** opted for the far less dusty path of Navy spouse. She raises her son with her husband, Kevin, at duty stations across the country while cohosting and producing a comedy podcast about children's television and movies. • **Karl Whittington** and Adam Fazio '07 are living in Columbus, Ohio, with daughter Nina (3). Karl is a professor of art history at Ohio State and Adam is the development director at a local nonprofit that promotes access to healthy food in low-income communities. They are beginning to feel like Midwesterners, which is a little unsettling and also great. They write, "Anyone passing through Ohio should drop us a line!" • **Sara Smiley Smith** is having a great time in her latest adventure as the assistant dean of research and sustainability at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She lives with husband Dean Hosgood and their daughter and son in Connecticut. • **Ali White** does GIS and search and rescue for Zion National Park. She's out playing in canyons whenever possible. • **Eliza Mitchell Butts** is associate design director at Harvard Medical School's Alumni Affairs and Development Office. She moved to Milton, Mass., last June with husband David and has loved the unexpected bonus of living within walking distance of **Kate Orchard**. Still devoted to creative endeavors, Eliza does graphic design by day, and by night, or early morning, she dedicates more and more time to developing her children's book characters and illustrations in the hopes of one day publishing her first children's book. • Don't forget to put Reunion Weekend on your calendar, June 7–9! Meanwhile, check out photos of classmates on pages 70 and 77!

—Class Correspondents: Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (princess1328@yahoo.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).



05

Kathleen Fleury is the editor in chief of *Down East Magazine* and was recently featured as a speaker for the Brunswick Downtown Assoc. speaker series. She lives in Camden, Maine, with her partner, Noah, and their three children. • **Stellan Parr** recently started a job in robotic surgery as first assistant, physician assistant. • After receiving his PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Nathan Jandl** was fortunate to return to the UW in 2017 as communications director for the Office of Sustainability. He now gets to work with a wonderful team of academic and operational staff, faculty members, and student interns (all while cheering on his wife, Chloe Benjamin, whose novel *The Immortalists* made a big splash this year). • In fall 2017, **Phillip Bloom** began working as the curator of the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif. He had the pleasure of meeting Isabel McWilliams '10 in the gardens recently and saw **Chris Hornig** this summer. • **Pat Zomer** was recently elected a shareholder at law firm Moss and Barnett. • **Simon Perkins**, along with Kirk Horton '17, wrote, di-

rected, and produced a documentary short called *For the Love of Mary*, which traces a 97-year-old runner's attempt to compete in a grueling 7.6-mile race to the summit of Mt. Washington, the tallest mountain peak in the Northeast. It was chosen to be screened at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this past August. • **Brian Vito**, after spending a decade in Chicago working as an attorney at the firm Sidley Austin and the hedge fund Magnetar Capital, has recently completed a senior postgraduate fellowship at his law school alma mater, Harvard Law School. Brian is now preparing to move to London, where he will be practicing law at a boutique firm focused on investment management. • Congratulations to **David Lindholm**, who was named the head coach of the men's and women's cross-country teams and the track and field program at Bard College.
—Class Correspondent: Martha Dutton (martha.dutton@gmail.com).

06

Julia Proctor and **Phil Aroneanu** welcomed their daughter, Orli Aroneanu Proctor, into the world on March 26. She's already a seasoned traveler and loves going on adventures. They live in Manhattan, where Phil works for the ACLU and Julia performs as well as teaches at Pace University and Clown Gym. • Check out photos of classmates at mini-reunions on pages 61 and 70!
—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com); Jess Van Wagenen O'Rielly (jessorielly@gmail.com).

07

Bethany Holmes was recently promoted to director of provider performance management at Tufts Health Plan. She oversees and directs the redesign of the commercial and Medicare provider performance management function. She earned her master's in health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health. • *Rust Creek,* a feature thriller written by **Julie Lipson** that harks back to the "backwoods mayhem" thriller/horror genre, was chosen to be screened at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this past August.
—Class Correspondents: Carlos Beato (carlosmbeato@gmail.com); Amanda Cook Maher (amandahollos@gmail.com).

08

In June, we were thrilled when 172 Class of 2008ers made it up to Vermont to celebrate our 10-year Reunion! The campus really put on a show with perfect weather in the high 70s, blue skies, Mead Chapel bells, and a Saturday evening fireworks show. Fun and laughs were had by all! During our Reunion, the Middlebury Alumni Association awarded **Corey Reich** the Young Alumni Achievement Award for his highly successful work advocating and fundraising for ALS. Under the banner of "Corey's Crusade," he has raised $8 million for the cause. Eleven years after his diagnosis, Corey joined the Class of 2008 at Reunion in June and gave an inspirational and moving Saturday morning talk about his fundraising efforts, latest on ALS research, and his favorite memories from Middlebury. • **George** and **Michelle Constant Baumann** also made a week of it up in Vermont before Reunion, hiking the Long Trail, touring the Alchemist Brewery, and enjoying Vermont in the summer. • Another Middlebury couple, **Nathaan** and **Dorothy Muirhead Demers** traveled from Colorado for Reunion and brought their new baby to the campus for the first time. • **Kayla Race**, also at Reunion, moved to Salt Lake City in June 2017 with husband Dekker Deacon '07. After working on environmental policy since graduating from Midd, she decided to go back to school to get a law degree at the University of Utah. Dekker is doing his dermatology residency at the same university. They're both loving the unbeatable mountain access Salt Lake has to offer and think more Midd Kids should know about it! • **Justin** and Dale Freundlich '10 **Scott** celebrated the birth of son Tucker on April 19. They are currently living in Atlanta and taking advantage of every opportunity to introduce Tucker to their friends from Middlebury. • **Ryan Tauriainen** was made one of NBC's "Pride 30" for LGBT pride month and was featured along with 29 other LGBT leaders from around the U.S. and internationally. Also, in June he was awarded the grand prize from Leading For Children's "Innovative Ideas Award," in recognition of early childhood literacy curriculum he created and shared freely online. Congrats, Ryan! • In April, **Michelle Cady** published her first book, *Self-Care in the City: 100 Ways to Optimize Your Nutrition, Fitness & Wellness in an Urban Environment.* Michelle works with busy, successful clients through her private health coaching practice and is on a book tour this fall. Check out her website to see if she's coming to a city near you, or scoop up her book on Amazon! • Back in Vermont, **Heather Neuwirth** married Nick Lovejoy on May 27 at Basin Harbor resort in Vergennes with a lot of Midd friends present. They then bought a house in Weybridge, Vt., but had a bumpy move with Nick breaking his collarbone mid-move and Heather taking a two-week work trip, but they're settled now and loving it! • We want to hear from *you!* Send us your notes anytime.
—Class Correspondents: Michelle Cady (michelle.elizabeth.cady@gmail.com); Laura Lee Mittelman (laurawhitneylee@gmail.com).

09

REUNION CLASS **Emily Feldman** recently moved back to New York City after receiving a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, San Diego, in 2016 and then spending a year in Minneapolis as Jerome Fellow in playwriting at the Playwrights Center. She spent last summer developing new work at SPACE on Ryder Farm in Brewster, N.Y., and she's currently in residence at Playwrights Horizons. She is also a member of development organizations like the Orchard Project Greenhouse and Page 73 and she's under commission from Manhattan Theatre Club and Playwrights Horizons. This past summer, Emily completed residencies in Indiana, Texas, upstate New York, Cape Cod, and Portland, Ore., developing new projects for the stage and screen. • **Cassidy Edwards Fisher** resides in Northern Michigan, not far from where she grew up. She has been married for almost six years and has two little boys, Ethan (2) and Simon (6 mos.). After Middlebury, she received a master's in clinical mental health from Western Michigan Univ. She currently works full time for the Leelanau County Family Court as a diversion and prevention counselor, counseling adolescent females who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The program utilizes adventure and experiential therapy. She works with the girls in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, where they have access to freshwater kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and camping. When she's not working, her family is super active. They love exploring the national lakeshore either by foot, bike, skis, or canoe. • Since October 2017, **Angelika Ferguson** has been working as a resident faculty member at Keio Academy of New York, a Japanese bilingual private school that's connected to Keio University and located in Purchase, N.Y. • **Matt Ferrer** reports that after completing his MBA at UCLA in 2015 (where he was flanked by **Pete Britt**, **Peter Murphy**, and **Reisa Bloch**), he joined a lifestyle apparel brand called johnnie-O, where he is the director of business development. He and wife Julie (St. Lawrence University '10) moved back to the East Coast two years ago and now live in New Canaan, Conn., where he continues to work for johnnie-O and she is a SoulCycle instructor.
—Class Correspondents: Billie Borden (billie.borden@gmail.com); Ashley Bell Volwiler (ashley.volwiler@gmail.com).

10

Exciting news from the Class of 2010. **Kathryn Greis** has recently moved to Toronto to do an LLM (Master of Laws) in health law. • **Elizabeth Boles** married Julian Lopez on April 13 in Jalisco, Mexico. She is an English professor at ITESO Univ. in Guadalajara, where they live. • **Rebecca Chin** finished her master's degree and teaching certificate in early childhood special education at the Univ. of Washington. She is thrilled to be a special education preschool teacher this fall in Seattle. In her free time she likes to hike, camp, and play Ultimate. • **Shanta Lindo** is celebrating one year as the national director of the Career Program at the Posse Foundation in New York City. • And finally, **Molly Dwyer** and **Nick Martell** were married on June 16 on Nantucket Island, Mass. Molly and Nick met as Febs; Nick transferred to Brown Univ.; and Molly and Nick began dating soon after. Midd Kids at the wedding included **Abby Hoeschler Delaney**, **Annie Weinberg**, Carl Culicchia '11, **Bob Sincerbeaux**, David Reed '11, **Lizzie Horvitz**,

Emma Gardner, Jack Kramer, Katherine Horvitz '06, Kerry Reilly, Mary Walsh, Lydia Ode Slauson, Maeve McGilloway, Maggie Carter Cantwell, Michael and Mia Lieb-Lappan Panzer, Patrick and Shelsey Weinstein Johnson, Lee McKenna Hollingsworth, and Timothy Monaghan. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 61! • As most of the class celebrates the big 3-0, we'd love to share any celebrations, reunions, or job updates. Please submit your notes to Oscar Loyo or Alice Ford.

—Class Correspondents: Alice Ford (alicemarieford@gmail.com); Oscar Loyo (loyo.oscar@gmail.com).

11 Hello, Class of 2011! Cheers to several of our classmates who recently finished advanced degrees: Megan Margel completed her MBA at Duke University and moved to San Francisco to start work at Apple. • Jim McNinch graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in May. He is now an internal medicine resident at Christiana Hospital in Delaware. He and wife Danielle live in Wilmington. • Also in May, Gillian Durkee graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with an MFA in dramatic writing, where she received the Steven Bochco Fellowship and the West Coast Drama Alumni Clan Award. She kicked off her return to New York City with a staged reading of a new play, *Diving for Walt (or Under the Sea)* at The Tank NYC in August. • And a warm congratulations to Deb Wakefield, who married Arman Mamuti of Skopje, Macedonia, on May 25 in Skopje. She writes, "My Peace Corps community has a reputation for PCVs getting married, and I laughed it off until this spring when my husband and I decided to get married! We will move to the U.S. together after my Peace Corps service is over. First vacation is to show him Middlebury and Vermont!" • As always, it's great to hear from you! Please stay in touch by emailing us anytime at midd2011@gmail.com.

—Class Correspondents: Ashley Cheung (cheung.ash@gmail.com); Carly Lynch (cjlynch489@gmail.com).

12 Happy fall, Class of 2012! We hope this finds you all doing great. Read on for a few class updates, and please reach out if you have any news to share! • One Boston apartment is now a full-time Middlebury reunion. Nolan Maier, completing a PhD in biology at MIT, Barbara Wilkinson, in her second year of ob/gyn residency at Brigham and Women's/Mass General, Michael Polebaum, teaching at his alma mater Noble and Greenough School, Max Friedman, newly graduated with his MBA from Dartmouth and starting work at BCG, and Dan Shaw, newly graduated from Yale and starting an emergency medicine residency at Beth Israel hospital, are all enjoying their shared home in Cambridgeport. • In May, Katie Dunleavy graduated from medical school with an honours degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). She began her residency in internal medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC in July. She was excited to return home after time abroad and to see where this next chapter leads. At RCSI, Katie was awarded several gold medals for her commitment to compassionate clinical practice and was voted "RCSI Societies Person of the Year." • Rachel Callender married Ian Welch-Phillips on August 11 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. They live in London, where Rachel works as an aviation finance lawyer at international law firm Bird & Bird.

—Class Correspondents: Sara Cohen (srcohen90@gmail.com); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).

13 This year the Class of 2013 celebrated their 5th Reunion, descending on Middlebury in impressive numbers for an action-packed weekend. Friday night brought everyone together for reunions both joyful and awkward at the field house

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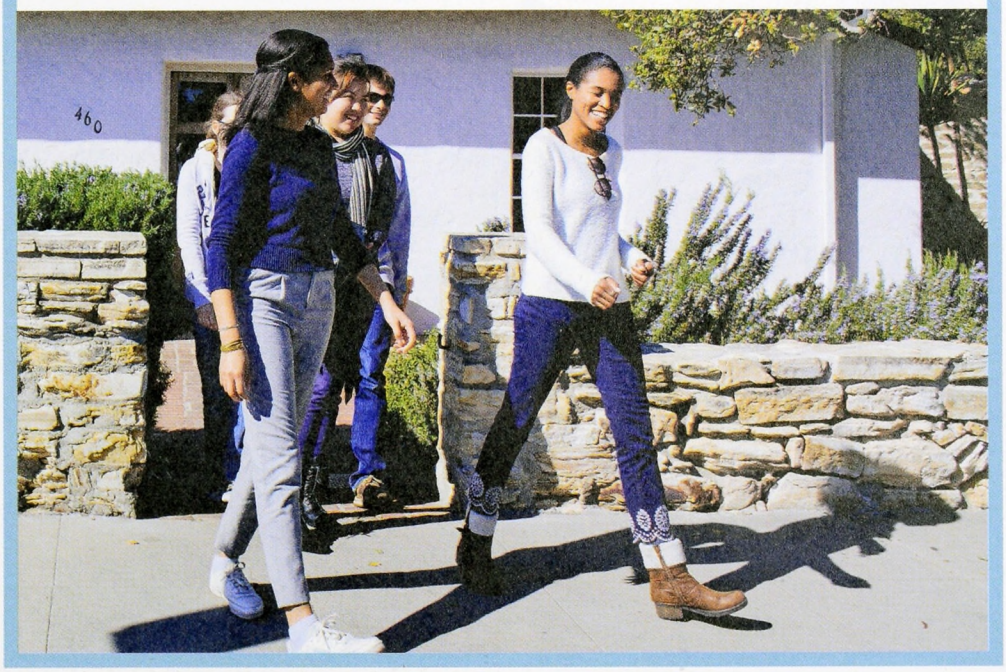

over American Flatbread pizza and beer. Saturday's daytime weather was perfect for both Proctor patio brunch and a Dunmore dunk. The class lamented the closings of staples like Carol's and the Mods, while exploring new campus curiosities like the dorms on Adirondack View. In a cross-class coincidence, **Erik Benepe** and his father, Adrian Benepe '78, were both in attendance for the 2018 Reunion. On Saturday night, the elder Benepe brought his musical talents to the Hepburn Lounge as a DJ for the Class of 1978 party. However, the Class of 2013 got wind of it, and much to the chagrin of Erik, flooded the dance floor with youthful energy. • **Jen Friedlander** writes, "I married my high school boyfriend, Sam Seehof (Dartmouth '13), on July 7 in Wayzata, Minn. We are moving back to Minnesota after he graduates from business school in May 2019, where I plan to start a farm! Super pumped!" • Check out a photo **Ethan Galiette** sent on page 77!
—Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (eccburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterd1331@gmail.com).

14 REUNION CLASS With less than a year until our 5th-year Reunion, we are very excited to have heard from a record number of our classmates. Keep the updates coming! • **Jennifer Melgar** is a second-year medical student at the Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine and would be happy to hear from other Midd Kids in the area. She says, "We are few and far between here in the Midwest!" • **Megan LaCasse Mercier** received her master's from UVM this year and has started her fifth year of teaching. Megan welcomed a baby girl on the 4th of July! • **Anthony Perez** spent the summer traveling throughout Mexico and mentally preparing for law school. If you're in Orange County, please feel free to reach out to him at anthonsp@lawnet.uci.edu. • **Ashali Bhandari** graduated from the Univ. of Pennsylvania's School of Design (PennDesign) with her master's in city and regional planning. She's now moving to Delhi to work with the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Initiative on a project with India's National Institute of Urban Affairs. • **Rachel Sider** is celebrating four years of living in the Middle East and advising on humanitarian policy in response to the Syrian crisis. On trips to Damascus, Istanbul, and Erbil, Rachel continues to search for her next dream carpet. Rachel was recently featured on CNN and NPR, providing commentary on recent events in southern Syria. • **Caroline Goodwin** just finished a six-month trip around the world with Eric Roberts '13, where they visited Japan, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, India, Italy, Scotland, and Ireland. "We happened to run into Michael Hodge '11 at 6 a.m., waiting for a kayaking trip on Milford Sound, NZ, proving that you can find Midd Kids everywhere! Moving to Boston and would love to reconnect with anyone from Midd!" • **Leslie Reed-Jones** says, "I'm in my second year of veterinary school at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss. It has been so fulfilling to find a career path that I am super passionate about. I got married this summer in Highlands, N.C., with many of my incredible Midd friends by my side. I wouldn't have had it any other way! **Jasmine Lee**, **Kelsi Morgan**, **Anthony Perez**, **Ian Stewart**, and I are particularly good at keeping in touch with many cross-country visits each year. I'm already trying to fit Reunion into my rotation schedule for next summer!" • **Madeline Jackson** and Brendan Jackson-Fowl were married this past March in Baltimore, Md. It was a wonderful day filled with love, friendship and an authentic Midd-Carleton rendition of "Like a Prayer." • **Douglas Gledhill** says, "I just got back from a one-and-a-half-year backpacking trip around Latin America and Asia with Andrea Cruz. We quit our jobs at the end of 2016 and made our traveling dreams a reality! Now I'm starting my master's at Yale. I'm studying at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and I'm excited to be back in an academic environment and back in New England for the next two years. I'm in New Haven, but plan to visit Boston and New York often and hope to meet up with other Midd people!" • **Jake Nonweiler** is a living, breathing epitome of the start-up life in San Francisco, working for a coffee company called Fellow, which designs and manufactures coffee-brewing accessories. "I am consistently overly caffeinated and know more about coffee than I even knew possible. We're having a blast and growing quickly." He spends time with Midd Kids weekly and loves having such a strong Middlebury contingency in the Bay Area. • **Dan Reed** is in his third year teaching English at the Loomis Chaffee School, where he also coaches squash and tennis and is in charge of an upperclassmen boys' dorm. "Hit me up if you're ever in the Hartford, Conn., area; I've got a tiny couch with every Midd Kid's name on it." • **Eleni Polychroniadou** moved to London a year ago and is working at a sustainability consulting firm called thinkstep. "We help corporates make their products more environmentally friendly and their operations more environmentally friendly. Most recently, I started working under a green-building certification program called EDGE, which was founded by the World Bank to bring green-building design to emerging companies. I'd love to hear from Midd Kids working in the sector and am always keen to meet with fellow Londoners!" • Keeping the tradition alive, **Veronica Coates** and Wahid Ahmed '12 got married on April 22 in Sacramento, Calif., surrounded by amazing family and friends to celebrate their #blacklove. It was such a magical and joyful day full of celebrating two beautiful souls who met and fell in love at Middlebury in 2010. The newlyweds are living in Wahid's native Oakland, Calif., but are contemplating moving to chilly Montréal for their next adventure. • And **Melissa Garrett** and **Vincent Mariano** were married on June 16 in Portland, Maine! • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 63!
—Class Correspondents: Jackie Breckenridge (jackiebreck@outlook.com); Emma Kitchen (m.emma.kitchen@gmail.com); Peter Mattson (petercmattson@gmail.com).

15 Congratulations to classmates who were awarded Fulbright grants for this academic year: **Emma Cameron**, who is serving in the Peace Corps in Rwanda, is an English teaching assistant in South Africa, helping teens attain the fluency they need for successful careers and leadership positions. **Mandy Kwan** is applying her passions for women's leadership, social welfare, photography, and psychology as an English teaching assistant in Argentina. She also wants to teach photography to young Argentinians to empower them to use art as a means of self-expression and communication. **Jessica Parker** received an English teaching assistantship in Brazil and hopes to develop her teaching abilities. • **Bree Baccaglini** writes, "After about a year living, working, and traveling in Lebanon, Kaveh Waddell '13 and I recently moved stateside to Palo Alto, Calif. I'm starting my first year of Stanford Law School this fall, and Kaveh continues to cover artificial intelligence and robotics as a reporter at Axios. We're excited to be joining a fairly big Midd cohort here on the peninsula!" • **Carter Makin** writes, "I live in San Francisco but have been very involved with the Kelly Brush Foundation (KBF), based in Burlington, Vt., for the past five years. The KBF is a nonprofit that raises money to buy adaptive sporting equipment for people with spinal cord injuries and ski racing equipment for resorts. After spinal cord injuries, it's common for people to be depressed, financially stressed, and not have any outlets. Using adaptive skis, tennis chairs, or bikes changes people's mental health and aids with physical recovery. The KBF was started after Kelly Brush Davisson '08 sustained a spinal cord injury in 2006 while skiing in the Williams College Carnival as part of the Midd alpine ski team. The foundation has grown dramatically and in 2017, the KBF raised over $1,000,000 and awarded over 200 adaptive sports grants. I was a co-chair for a cocktail party fundraiser in San Francisco that happened on October 18. Kelly and husband Zeke (executive director of the KBF) were in attendance to help in our work to grow the reach of the KBF and its supporters. Life is better active!" • **Aaron Kano-Bower** writes, "On July 28, Maria Benjamin '13 and I were married at Mead Chapel by Bishop Alan Gates '80. We had our reception at the Old Lantern in Charlotte, Vt., and took a photo with all the Midd Kids and a Middlebury banner that the ladies from the same Allen freshman hall bring to their weddings and sign. There are four signatures so far. Mia and I are changing our last names to Kano, which is my mother's maiden name." • Congratulations to **Jennifer Wenzler**, who was awarded a graduate scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD.
—Class Correspondents: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com); Cooper Couch (couch.cooper@gmail.com).

16 On July 25, PBS premiered a one-hour film on the Andes that included two segments that **Spencer Hardy** was involved with as a consulting ornithologist. He helped the BBC with filming in Peru when he took a couple of weeks off his senior year. • **Carlyn Vachow** has left Middlebury after two years as an admissions counselor to explore life on the West Coast. She is currently working in the admissions office at the Stevenson School, on California's Monterey Peninsula. • **Victor Filpo** has also left Middlebury after two years as an admissions counselor to pursue the Princeton in Latin America fellowship in the Dominican Republic. He's working with the Mariposa Foundation, teaching martial arts, dance, and English and advising students on educational opportunities.

—Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).

17 With Simon Perkins '05, **Kirk Horton** wrote, directed, and produced a documentary short called *For the Love of Mary,* which was selected to be screened at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this past August. The film traces a 97-year-old runner's attempt to compete in a grueling 7.6-mile race to the summit of Mt. Washington, the tallest peak in the Northeast.

—Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com

18 **Patrick Schmidt** has been hired by Resource Data as a GIS programmer/analyst in the Anchorage, Alaska, office. He was previously working as a GIS intern for Vermont Legal Aid in Burlington. • **Emma Dunlap** was recently named a 2018–2019 fellow in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs in New York. The program is a nine-month program that has multiple field placements for its fellows in different sectors; immersive experiences in the community; development of personal and team skills; and connection to its alumni network. • **Natalie Figueroa** and **Maria Del Sol Nava** recently joined the Admissions Office at Middlebury as the newest admissions counselors. • Two classmates produced films that were chosen to be screened at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this past August. **Will Lupica**'s animation short, *Rodney,* about a penguin trying very hard to make it in the human world, was appealing to all ages. And *Lily*, a narrative short directed by **Danilo Herrera**, introduced a couple rethinking life plans after touring an assisted-living home. Congratulations! • Welcome to **Hannah Pustejovsky**, who has joined as a class correspondent.

—Class Correspondents: Georgia Grace Edwards (gedwards@middlebury.edu); Charlie Mitchell (clmitchell@middlebury.edu); Hannah Pustejovsky (hpustejovsky@middlebury.edu).

OBITUARIES

35 **Virginia Easler Wilson**, 104, of Sarasota, Fla., on May 9, 2018. A Phi Mu at Middlebury, she earned her certificate at Katherine Gibbs and returned to Middlebury to work as the secretary to the dean of the French School. During this time she earned her master's in French, spending time at the Sorbonne in France. Moving to New Hampshire, she became the secretary of the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences in 1959. In 1961, she and her husband bought the New Hampshire and Vermont franchises for Manpower, a temporary help service, and operated the business until retiring to Florida. Predeceased by husband Carroll, she is survived by daughter Ann, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Donald '36 (deceased), and nephews Stephen '65 (deceased) and David '67 Beebe.

39 **Marilynn Manning Baldwin**, 100, of Sylvania, Ohio, on June 13, 2018. With a master's degree in social work from the Univ. of Pennsylvania, she worked during WWII at the Red Cross Children's Bureau in Wilmington, Del. Moving to Ohio, she worked for many years as a school social worker, retiring in 1982. Predeceased by husband Robert, she is survived by children John, Nancy, Robert, and Emily '75, seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

A. Roger Clarke, 99, of Rochester, N.Y., on April 19, 2018. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he earned his law degree from Cornell Univ. During WWII, he served in the Navy, escorting convoys to South America as the engineering officer of the PY 13 USS *Siren* and later guarding NYC harbor as captain of the YP 175. He practiced law in Webster, N.Y., in private practice and as the town attorney. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1950 and for New York State Assembly in 1960. Predeceased by first wife Gay and second wife Jeanette, he is survived by children Raven, Randall, Jordan, and Holly, stepchildren Steve and Susan, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

40 **Verna George Bain**, 99, of San Diego, Calif., on April 22, 2018. A member of Kappa Delta at Middlebury, she worked eight years in the district attorney's office in Northampton, Mass., before moving to San Diego. With a master's from San Diego State Univ., she had a long career in education, serving as elementary teacher, assistant principal, and principal with the San Diego Unified School District. During her nine years at Baker Elementary as principal, she helped turn the minority-isolated school into a music magnet school. Predeceased by husband George, she is survived by sons Michael and Gregory, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara-Ann Carrick Brooker, 99, of Middlebury, Vt., on April 11, 2018. She was in Pi Beta Phi at Middlebury. When her husband became director of development at the College, she spent 25 years supporting him in his official duties and was awarded the Alumni Plaque in honor of her service to the College. She also worked 20 years at the Vermont Book Shop and many years selling real estate. Predeceased by husband Walter '37, she is survived by sons Eric and David, four grandchildren, including William Brooker '88, and six great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sisters Jane Carrick Oviatt '28, Catherine Carrick Whitcombe '32, and Mary Carrick Hobart '34.

41 **L. Daniel Martin**, 98, of Augusta, Ga., on April 27, 2018. A member of Chi Psi, he served in the Army as a Japanese interpreter and was in Japan after the atomic bombs were dropped. He worked for many years for DuPont, in New York and in South Carolina, retiring in 1978. For over 50 years, he and his wife were involved in square-dancing and even danced at President Jimmy Carter's inauguration in 1977. He is survived by wife Mary (Reynolds), children Robert, Sandra, and David, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

42 **Edward E. Buttolph**, 99, of Middlebury, Vt., on May 16, 2018. During WWII, he served with the Vermont National Guard in the European Theater, fighting in six major campaigns and receiving the Silver Star award for gallantry in action. Settling in Middlebury, he worked from 1946 to 1949 in real estate, and from 1949 to 1968 at Cooperative Fire Insurance Assoc. He left the business in 1968 to manage his timber land and to develop Buttolph Acres, a housing development. Predeceased by wife Barbara (Coast), he is survived by children Christopher, Janet, David, Martin, and Alison, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include grandfather John Buttolph, Class of 1882, father John Buttolph, Class of 1911, mother Mabel Martin Buttolph, Class of 1911, uncles William Eldridge, Class of 1895, Carl and Edward Martin, both Class of 1909, Harry Williams, Class of 1913, aunts Grace Buttolph Eldridge, Class of 1908, Caroline Buttolph Williams, Class of 1913, Marjorie Martin Briggs, Class of 1916, Mildred Martin Howard, Class of 1919, and brother John '40. Sister Mabel Buttolph '44, who survived him, died September 4. Surviving Middlebury relatives include nephews John '64 and Edward '66 and niece Carolyn '65 Buttolph.

Lucene Slayton Martel, 97, of Brewster, Mass., on May 27, 2018. A member of Delta Delta Delta at Middlebury, she went to work at New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. until she started a family. After raising two children, she worked 15 years at the Millburn (N.J.) Public Library. Predeceased by husband Anthony '49 and son Charles, she is survived by daughter Patricia, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

ClassActs

43 **Warren J. Hassmer**, 96, of Truro, Mass., on April 7, 2018. A Theta Chi at Middlebury, he served in the Army in England and France during WWII. With a master's from Boston Univ., he had a long career in education, the majority of which was spent at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass., as an English professor. He had a passion for gardening and his four-acre garden was well known throughout his community. He was predeceased by partner Bob Hayward.

Edward T. Peach, 97, of Nevada City, Calif., on May 7, 2018. He was a member of Delta Upsilon. During WWII, he served in the Army in Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He and his wife were among the first faculty at the Cardigan Mountain School in New Hampshire, where they taught until 1950. He then worked at Pepperidge Farm, starting as plant manager and eventually becoming personnel manager. After 20 years, he left to work in real estate. In 1975 he became the director of the Nature Center for Environmental Activities in Westport, Conn. In 1986, he moved to Nevada City and spent 33 years enjoying the woodsman's life. Predeceased by first wife Dolly (Greene) '45 and third wife Nancy (Waltz), he is survived by children David, Stephen '71, Jeffrey, and Christine '77, 10 grandchildren, including Ian '07 and Morgan '09 Peach and Molly Peach Mayhew '11, and six great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include father Arthur, Class of 1909 (deceased), uncle Gordon, Class of 1911 (deceased), brothers Bruce '38 (deceased) and Donald '53, nephew Rick Greene '75, and niece Diana Peach '80.

44 **Dorothy Brown Clark**, 94, of North Branford, Conn., on May 25, 2018. With a strong background in languages from Middlebury, she worked as a cryptanalyst in the Military Intelligence Div. of the War Dept. during WWII. With a master's in education, she began teaching French at Darien (Conn.) High School in 1965, where she remained until her retirement in 1986. Predeceased by husband Jim, she is survived by daughters Margaret and Nancy, and one granddaughter.

48 **Louise Planck Terry**, 91, of Bayport, N.Y., on June 28, 2018. After earning a bachelor's in Spanish from Middlebury, she earned a master's in French, a DML in French, Spanish, and German, and a master's in German. She taught foreign languages at all levels for more than 40 years in public and private schools in New York. She belonged to several professional organizations for teachers of foreign languages and also served as a scorer of prospective teacher competency examinations for the National Evaluation System and the N.Y. State Dept. of Education. In 2003, she was awarded the Friends of German Award by the American Assoc. of Teachers of German. Predeceased by husband Alfred, she is survived by daughter Christine, sons Alfred '79 and Henry, and three grandchildren.

Mary Hicks Van Hoogenstyn, 90, of Ocean Park, N.J., on May 5, 2018. After graduation, she worked for New York Telephone then raised her children. She returned to work and spent many years at AT&T as a manager. Predeceased by husband Parker, she is survived by son Jon, daughter Mary Lacey, and two grandchildren.

49 **Priscilla Noyes Crosson**, 89, of Austin, Texas, on June 21, 2018. While raising her children, she was an active volunteer in the community. In the 1970s, she and her husband opened their own real estate firm, Crosson Realty, with 12 associates. In 1981, they moved to San Marcos, Texas, and she worked at Southwest Texas State Univ. in various jobs, retiring as the coordinator for the Annual Fund in 1991. Predeceased by husband Charles, she is survived by children Jeff, Doug, and Diane, and two grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include mother Caroline Clark Noyes, Class of 1909 (deceased), and nephew Terrance Noyes '75.

Jean Smith Davies, 90, of Rutland, Vt., on April 23, 2018. Moving to Vermont in 1953, she and her husband started Camp Betsey Cox for Girls in Pittsford, Vt., where she served as director for 37 years as one of 200 certified camp directors in the country. In 1999, the Assoc. of Independent Camps presented her with the Speedy Altman Award, the highest award. She authored stories for the local papers, as well as *Neighborly Notes,* wrote *Camp with a Song in Its Heart* (a history of Camp Betsey Cox), and coauthored *Pittsford's Second Century: 1872–1997.* Predeceased by husband Charles, she is survived by children JoAnne, Sherry, Rick, Pat, and Chrissy, as well as several step-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brothers James '40, David '42, and Lawrence '49. Surviving Middlebury relatives include nephew David Smith Jr. '68 and great-niece Kristin Smith '08.

Donald H. Henderson, 94, of Fairlee, Vt., on May 24, 2018. During WWII, he served with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy, where he was wounded in 1945. With a master's in history from Harvard and a year of advanced study at the Univ. of London, he began a teaching and coaching career at Holderness School in Plymouth, N.H. He had two Fulbright exchanges, in Norway and Germany. In 1963–64, he was a coach with the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team and in 1969–70, he was the head coach of the U.S. Alpine Ski Team. In 2016, he was inducted into Middlebury's Athletics Hall of Fame. He is survived by wife Pat (Salmon) '48, daughter Nancy '76, son Jack '80, and two grandchildren.

50 **William K. Mehlbach Jr.**, 91, of Denver, Colo., on April 12, 2018. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he served in the Navy at the end of WWII as a radar man aboard the USS *Dyess.* He taught physics, mostly at the secondary school level, for 32 years. He also had a one-year contract at Harvard, editing a new high school physics book as well as presenting the new teaching materials to people from all over the world. Predeceased by wife Diane (Brehm) '50, he is survived by children Peter, Connie, and Kathe, and five granddaughters.

Sally Peek Nelson, 89, of Hanover, N.H., on April 3, 2018. After earning her MAT at Wesleyan Univ., she pursued doctoral studies at McGill Univ. in Montreal, Canada, and was a founding faculty member of Dawson College, where she taught for 40 years, designed curricula, and chaired the Departments of English and Interior Design. Predeceased by son Thomas, she is survived by children Patricia, Nancy, and Stephen, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

John P. O'Connor, 92, of Tolland, Conn., on June 22, 2018. He served in the Army Air Corps in WWII and the Korean War. At Middlebury, he was a member of Delta Upsilon. He had a long career in sales and marketing, working for Baird Atomic, Philips, Hubbell, and Brand-Rex, where he was VP and general manager of the telecommunications division. In 1982 he joined the staff of the UConn School of Business as the director of the Connecticut Small Business Development Center. He is survived by children William, Gail '81, Robert, and Karen, and five grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Kevin '53.

51 **Carolyn Sackett Coleburn**, 88, of Redding, Conn., on May 19, 2018. After graduation, she worked as a medical secretary for three years. She also created crossword puzzles that were published in the *New York Times.* After raising her family, she began to run the family's printing business, Clark and Fritts, in 1978. For 28 years, she was a class parent for all of her children at Osborn School and was recognized by the school as the longest-serving class parent. Husband Kenneth '50, who survived her, died on August 19. She is survived by children William, Jacqueline, Robert, and Carolyn, four grandchildren, and her brother Lynn Sackett '49.

Ellen Hight Morris, 88, of Simsbury, Conn., on June 22, 2018. After graduating, she had 12 years of business experience at Arthur D. Little, Bache & Co., and WGBH in Boston and was the first employee of Teradyne. Moving to Connecticut, she volunteered actively in her community for the Farmington VNA, Simsbury Library, Simsbury Garden Club, and the Village for Families and Children. Predeceased by son Jonathan, she is survived by husband Irving '53, daugh-

ter Julia Ogden '86, MA English '96, and two grandsons, including Malcolm Ogden '20.

52 **Martha Peck Burgess**, 86, of Annapolis, Md., on May 10, 2018. While raising her children, she volunteered in schools, performing creative drama through puppet shows and teaching all levels, which resulted in her textbook *Life on Earth Changes and So Do I*. She earned a master's and PhD in education from the Union Institute in 1993 and developed workshops in classroom management and emotional/heart intelligence. She is survived by life partner Al Brown, children Cynthia and Kenneth, stepsons Geoffrey and Michael, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Robert J. Duclos, 88, of Middlebury, Vt., on May 21, 2018. He worked for several years at First National grocery story then became a teller at the National Bank of Middlebury. He rose through the ranks to become president and retired in 1991. He remained on the board of directors until 2005. He had a passion for woodworking and built furniture and cabinetry. Predeceased by son David and grandson Levi, he is survived by daughters Cairle, Kathleen, and Gail, son James, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Son Allan, who survived him, died August 26.

Jacqueline Willaredt Lelong, 87, of Georgetown, Texas, on April 26, 2018. She earned her master's in gerontology from the Univ. of Michigan and cofounded the Austin, Texas, nonprofit agency Family Eldercare, which provides volunteer guardians for many Central Texas elders. She is survived by husband Donald '51, children Peter, Wendy, and Nicole, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Herbert R. Melchior, 88, of Fairbanks, Alaska, on June 5, 2018. He earned a master's in plant ecology from the Univ. of New Hampshire and pursued a doctorate in animal behavior and ecology from the Univ. of Wisconsin. He was appointed assistant professor of ecology at San Diego State, where he taught biometrics and general and behavioral ecology. In 1972, he moved to Alaska to work as a research ecologist at the Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks. From 1977 until he retired in 1998, he worked for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game. He is survived by wife Hilda (Wobber) and sons Thor and Soren.

Margaret Lewis West, 88, of Kingsport, Tenn., on May 18, 2018. At Middlebury, she was a member of Kappa Delta. She served two tours of duty in Athens, Greece, for the U.S. State Dept. Her passions were gardening, skiing, and cats. Predeceased by husband Arthur, she is survived by children Charles, Mary, and Elizabeth, and seven grandchildren, including Valerie Blakely '20. Middlebury relatives include niece Christina Lewis Lynch '83.

53 **Deborah Ellis McIntire**, 87, of Johnson City, Tenn., on June 5, 2018. A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she became actively involved in the various communities she lived in with her family. She enjoyed being a choir director and singing and heading choirs in several of the places she lived. She is survived by husband Don, children William, Robert, John, and Julia, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Middlebury relatives include brother Matthew Ellis '56.

54 **Marcia Kraft Goin**, 85, of Los Angeles, Calif., on April 26, 2018. A member of Alpha Xi Delta, she attended Yale Medical School and was one of the first Middlebury women to graduate with a medical degree in the '50s. Moving to LA with her husband, she began work at USC/LA County General Hospital, coordinating the extensive outpatient hospital teaching program. Earning her PhD from Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute, she also started a private practice, published numerous papers, and became a national leader in research on how to teach psychotherapy to psychiatric residents. In 2000 she was elected vice president of the American Psychiatric Assoc. and was elected president in 2002. In 2004, Middlebury bestowed an honorary Doctor of Science on her and in 2014 awarded her an Alumni Achievement Award. Predeceased by husband John, she is survived by daughters Suzanne and Jessica '90 and five grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Barbara Kraft Packer '50.

55 **Rosina Chapin Cheney**, 84, of Middlesex, Vt., on May 24, 2018. She had a long and successful career in sales with Lord & Taylor in West Hartford, Conn. She was passionate about politics, opera, travel, modern art, good friends, and dogs. She is survived by daughters Loring and Galen, and two step-grandchildren.

Atherton "Pete" Noyes III, 85, of Damariscotta, Maine, on May 8, 2018. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he earned a master's in international affairs at Columbia Univ., along with further Russian studies. He served six years in the Navy before entering foreign service. Starting as a secretary of embassy, he and his family traveled to Vienna, Warsaw, and Oslo, with return trips to Washington, D.C. He retired after 17 years at the level of Senior Foreign Service, Level 2. Retiring to Maine, he became deeply involved with the Damariscotta River Assoc., serving in many capacities, including as the organization's first executive director. He is survived by wife Elizabeth (Nutting) '55, sons David, Jonathan, and Timothy, and one grandson.

56 **Roald M. Schopp**, 88, of Canaan, Conn., on April 22, 2018. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon at Middlebury. After graduating, he joined the family business, Stadium Systems, which reconditions athletic gear for college, high school, and youth sports programs. A hockey player at Middlebury, he enjoyed teaching local youth how to play hockey. He is survived by wife Beverly (Watkins) '56, children Kenneth, Julie, Michael, Laura, and Edward, 16 grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

57 **Barclay G. Johnson Jr.**, 83, of Cockeysville, Md., on July 3, 2018. A member of Delta Upsilon, he served as a first lieutenant in the Army Armored Corps in 1958. With a master's from Trinity College, he joined the faculty of the Taft School in 1961 and had an almost 40-year career teaching English, coaching football and track, leading the school's Independent Learning programs, and serving as dean of faculty. Predeceased by son Clay, he is survived by sons Paul and Matthew, and three grandchildren.

James B. Offutt, 86, of Sarasota, Fla., on April 14, 2018. He served his country during the Korean War and was a Theta Chi at Middlebury. He worked for Standard Oil Co. in Kentucky, Mason and Morse Real Estate Co. in Aspen, Colo., and the Charles C. Jones Co. in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was also a member of the American, and Arizona, Quarter Horse Assoc. boards and worked on horse shows. Moving to Florida, he joined the Power Squadron, obtaining his captain's license. He is survived by wife Barbara (Rogers), daughters Kathy, Nancy, and Sharon, three grandsons, and one great-granddaughter.

59 **Charles A. Adams**, 80, of Ellicott City, Md., on June 21, 2018. A Chi Psi at Middlebury, he earned his BA from UVM and an MS in communications at Syracuse Univ. After a career in radio and TV, he went from the Vermont National Guard to active duty in the Army, retiring as a major. He then worked for Baltimore Gas and Electric before selling real estate. He is survived by wife Deborah (Graves), sons Christopher and Derek, stepsons Thomas, Kenneth, and Josiah, and 10 grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include great-grandfather Ezra Brainerd, Class of 1864, grandparents Charles and Bertha Brainerd Adams, Class of 1895, great-aunts Frances Brainerd Baird, Class of 1898, Alice Brainerd Nelson, Class of 1904, Dorothy Brainerd Kline '23, Katherine Brainerd Eddy '28, great-uncle Stanton Eddy '27, and father Charles '27.

James M. Kater, 80, of Ripton, Vt., on May 21, 2018. He was a Korean War veteran who served in the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of first lieutenant as a fighter pilot. At Middlebury, he was a member of Kappa Delta Rho. He had a 29-year career working for Delta Airlines, achieving the position of manager of flight training. An avid photographer, he worked as a

The following is a list of deaths reported to us since the previous issue went to the printers. Full obituaries will appear in future issues of the magazine.

Joseph C. Foley '39 . . . . . August 30, 2018
Margaret Wiley Thomson '41 . . . . . August 10, 2018
Mabel H. Buttolph '44 . . . . . September 4, 2018
Grace Stockder Rowe '44 . . . . . August 26, 2018
Dorothy Fitch Munn '45 . . . . . July 7, 2018
Jean Luckhardt Stratton '46 . . . . . August 18, 2018
Phyllis Hackley Foote '47 . . . . . July 23, 2018
Mortimer F. Harman Jr. '47 . . . . . August 16, 2018
Carl U. Parkinson '47 . . . . . July 21, 2018
Janet Goeltz Robinson '48 . . . . . July 31, 2018
Kenneth M. Coleburn Jr. '50 . . . . . August 19, 2018
Jane Terpening Hanson '50 . . . . . July 15, 2018
Elizabeth Scott Templeton '51 . . . . . August 2, 2018
Patricia Weymouth Lajeunesse '52 . . . . . August 3, 2018
Herbert R. Melchoir '52 . . . . . June 5, 2018
Janet West Schwarz '52 . . . . . July 16, 2018
Beverly Fenton Waitt '53 . . . . . August 30, 2018
Jean G. Kern Jr. '54 . . . . . August 10, 2018
Barbara Blaha Farnsworth '55 . . . . . August 15, 2018
Stuart R. Johnson '55 . . . . . August 12, 2018
Lindley S. Squires '55 . . . . . July 4, 2018
Jean Bisett Hollister '56 . . . . . July 22, 2018
Ronald C. Lawson '56 . . . . . August 22, 2018
Philip H. Montgomery '56 . . . . . July 29, 2018
Susan Minot Woody '57 . . . . . August 16, 2018
William E. Mandigo '58 . . . . . August 16, 2018
Jane Adwin Johnson '59 . . . . . July 16, 2018
Marcia Gillis Sitts '61 . . . . . July 15, 2018
J. Bailey Molineux '62 . . . . . August 2, 2018
Ann Pierce Caswell '64 . . . . . August 31, 2018
George A. Dodge '66 . . . . . July 4, 2018
Gary Higginbottom '71 . . . . . May 17, 2018
Peter R. Atkins '72 . . . . . July 19, 2018
Hannah T. Taylor '02 . . . . . July 21, 2018

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Benedetto Fabrizi, DML French '57 . . . . . July 5, 2018
Larry H. Jackson, MA French '57 . . . . . July 18, 2018
Helen M. Tanner, MA French '57 . . . . . August 19, 2018
Phaedra Constantinos Shively, MA French '65 . . . . . July 3, 2018
Paul F. Robinson, MA French '74 . . . . September 2, 2018
Paulette Epinal Maggiolo, DML French '76 . . . . . August 29, 2018
Elizabeth Tompkins Campbell, MA French '77 . . . . . July 21, 2018
Moyra Trainor Kaiser, MA Italian '59 . . September 3, 2018
Brooke Howe Laws, MA Spanish '98 . . . August 17, 2018
Ada Stenin, MA Language and Civilizations '67 . . . . July 28, 2018

stringer for the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* and the *Christian Science Monitor.* He is survived by wife Cheryl, children Lisa, John, Rebecca, and Thomas, and five grandchildren.

John R. Paust, 82, of Webster, N.Y., on June 16, 2018. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi at Middlebury, he earned a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. After serving a church in Verona, N.Y., he was a marriage and family therapist at Family Service of Rochester and taught at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He later established the N.E. Counseling Center and was an interim and part-time pastor for several churches. He is survived by wife Lana, children Wendy, David, Daniel, Michael, and Amy, and seven grandchildren.

Stanlee "Lee" Lonsdale Schaffer, 79, of Atlanta, Ga., on June 13, 2018. After earning her master's in linguistics from the Univ. of Michigan, she moved to Atlanta, where she did research for various departments at Georgia Tech and worked in various editorial capacities while volunteering in libraries, archives, and sports organizations. She served the U.S. Figure Skating Assoc. as a judge and committee member and recently received an award for her 50th year of service. She also acted as secretary of the boards of directors for both U.S. Figure Skating Championships held in Atlanta, in 1980 and 2004. She is survived by husband William, sons Samuel and Edward, and one granddaughter.

61 **David H. Hulihan**, 79, of Needham, Mass., on May 12, 2018. After serving two years in the Army Signal Corps as first lieutenant from 1961 to 1963, he entered Harvard School of Design and then earned his M.Arch from Columbia School of Architecture. He worked for Harrison and Abramovitz in NYC until 1971. Moving to Needham, he worked as a project architect at Hoyle, Doran, and Berry, eventually serving as president from 1990 to 1998. He is survived by wife Joan (Bloch) and daughter Elisabeth. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Harry '24 and great-aunt Annie Hulihan Creed, Class of 1915.

Bruce N. Johnstone, 79, of Lebanon, N.H., on April 10, 2018. A Sigma Epsilon at Middlebury, he began a 30-year banking career after graduation. After working at banks in Albany and Rochester, N.Y., and earning his MBA from Siena College, he joined Indian Head Bank in New Hampshire, eventually becoming president and COO. In 1991, he changed careers and bought Central Supply, a Lebanon-based plumbing, heating, electrical, and appliance supplier, which he sold in 2010. Predeceased by wife Sondra (Wells) '61, he is survived by sons Bruce '86 and Rob '88, daughter Katie, and seven grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include nephews Stuart '86 and Jonathan '94 Johnstone.

62 **Karl B. Schneider**, 77, of Homer, Alaska, on May 4, 2018. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he earned his master's in wildlife management at the Univ. of Alaska in Fairbanks. He worked as a biologist for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game in moose and caribou management and did scientific studies of the sea otter population. In 1972 he became a supervisor of a team of researchers studying marine mammals and other large mammals. He retired in 1997 with the title of biologist emeritus. He is survived by wife Mary (Kaminsky), daughter Katherine, son Norman, and several grandchildren.

63 **Michael M.T. Henderson**, 75, of Lawrence, Kan., on April 2, 2018. Earning a master's at Teacher's College, Columbia Univ., he had a long career in education, which included serving as the executive director of the Kabul English Language Center for the U.S. Information Agency in Afghanistan. With a PhD from the Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison, he was hired by Kansas Univ. to be the director of the Applied English Center and assistant professor of linguistics in 1975. He served as chair of the Linguistics Dept. from 1984 to 1987 and from 1997 to 2000, when he retired. He is survived by wife Carol (Hood) '63.

66 **Carolyn Sharp Hamilton**, 74, of Punta Gorda, Fla., on May 21, 2018. A Sigma Kappa at Middlebury, she went to work for AT&T after graduation. She worked in a variety of positions before joining AT&T International and becoming the first regional human resources manager in Hong Kong in 1985. Four of her 28 years at AT&T were spent in the Asia Pacific. In retirement she was an active volunteer in the Punta Gorda community. She is survived by husband Tom.

68 **Andrew J. Page**, 72, of Joplin, Mo., on June 17, 2018. At Middlebury, he played hockey and golf and was a member of Kappa Delta Rho. He worked for various businesses over the years. He is survived by children Austin and Joel, and four grandchildren.

69 **Sallie Jones Wendt**, 70, of Phoenix, Ariz., on July 1, 2018. She spoke six languages and earned a graduate degree from Rouen Univ. in France. Her most significant employment was with the First Interstate Bank, where she rose to VP financial consultant/benefits, coordinating benefits for 11 Western states. She loved Formula One auto racing and was a member of the Phoenix Formula One Grand Prix Committee from 1989 to 1991. She is survived by husband Bob.

72 **Mary L. Thompson**, 68, of Highgate Springs, Vt., on April 10, 2018. With an MFA from Penn State Univ., she worked for Jones and Laughlin Steel in Pittsburgh, becoming acting director of marketing. Moving to Vermont, she worked for National Life Ins., Bread Loaf Construction, and as a customs broker at the U.S.-Canada border. She was a prolific artist and one of her prints was selected for display in U.S. em-

bassies worldwide. Predeceased by brother Robert, she is survived by brothers William and James.

77 **William R. Craig**, 65, of Charlotte, N.C., on April 11, 2018. He graduated from the University of West Virginia in Morgantown with a degree in law. He enjoyed working with electronics, wiring, and computers, and playing the fretless bass guitar. He is survived by wife Alice (Goldsmith).

81 **John T. Hayes**, 59, of Halifax, Mass., on June 24, 2018. A member of Kappa Delta Rho at Middlebury, he worked in the banking industry his entire career. He began at Bank of Boston, which was followed by a stint at the Bank of New England. He spent 24 years at Rockland Trust before moving on to Crescent Credit Union. He is survived by wife Nell (McMahon), sons Jack and Colin Dwyer, and daughter Veronica Hayes.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS FACULTY

Paul Colilli, 65, of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, on March 7, 2018. He earned his BA from McMaster Univ. and an MA and PhD from the Univ. of Toronto. A much-loved member of the Italian studies community, he served as a professor of Italian studies at Laurentian Univ., as well as chair of the Dept. of Modern Languages, dean of humanities, dean of graduate studies and research, and acting associate VP of graduate studies and research. In the 1990s, he began teaching at the Italian School at Middlebury and in 2001, served as interim associate director. In 2006 he became the associate director of the school, serving until 2013. In 2012–2013, he was the Emilio Goggio Visiting Professor at the Univ. of Toronto. He wrote many articles ranging from the Renaissance to modern Italian literature and thought and was the author of numerous scholarly books. He also served as the associate editor of *Italica* and was an active member of the American Assoc. of Teachers of Italian, where he was on the executive council for many years. He is survived by wife Diana Iuele Colilli, and children Andre, Julian, and Olivia.

STAFF

Allan L. Duclos, 60, of New Haven, Vt., on August 26, 2018. A master craftsman, he built many homes and furnishings during his career. He worked alongside various crews and had a 13-year career with R.K. Miles company in Middlebury. In 1995, he joined the College as an ice rink attendant during the ice hockey season and continued in that role through the 2017–2018 season. He loved the woods, waters, and fields of Vermont as an avid angler, hunter, and gardener. He also loved to play hockey. Predeceased by father Robert '52, brother David, and nephew Levi, he is survived by mother Anita, sons Timothy and Brian, and siblings Cairle, James, Kathleen, and Gail and their families.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

50 **Ida Harrison Washington**, 93, MA German, of Weybridge, Vt., on May 30, 2018. With a PhD in German from Columbia, she taught at several different high schools and universities, before spending 20 years at UMass Dartmouth, retiring as professor emerita in 1986. She was a prolific author, who wrote many books about Vermont culture and history, including a history of Weybridge.

53 **Emily Leland Moran**, 86, MA Spanish, of Keene, N.H., on May 4, 2018. After working for the First National Bank of Boston and Buck Printing, she worked for the dean of Brooklyn Law. Earning an MLS at Columbia, she worked at the East Orange, N.J., library.

55 **Roger D. Brink**, 86, MA Spanish, of Lawrence Township, N.J., on April 14, 2018. After teaching Spanish and French at the Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J., he had a 38-year career teaching Spanish at the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, N.J., retiring in 1997.

61 **Peter M. Frenzel**, 82, MA German, of Middletown, Conn., on May 20, 2018. He joined the German Dept. at Wesleyan Univ. in 1966, where he had a long career, retiring as professor emeritus. During his time, he attained tenure, served as dean of arts and humanities for four years, and was awarded the Marcus Taft Chair of the Dept. of German Language and Literature. He also helped organize the Medieval Studies Dept., where he also taught.

63 **Douglas H. Cooper**, 90, MA Spanish, of Ossining, N.Y., on June 6, 2018. He served in the Navy at the end of WWII and in the Korean War. At St. Luke's School in New Canaan, Conn., he taught Spanish, was the head of the Foreign Language Dept., and served as a college counselor.

Fr. **Blaise Raymond R. Lagacé**, 86, MA French, of Augusta, Maine, on June 30, 2018. He was ordained in Montreal and his first assignment was as a professor at St. Francis College in Biddeford, Maine, where he taught from 1959 to 1975. He served as a missionary in Peru and as a translator for Catholic conferences in Africa and later worked for the Missionary Office in Washington, D.C.

Edith Wagner Rentz, 77, MA German, of Brunswick, Maine, on June 6, 2018. She taught German at various high schools and colleges in New York, Indiana, and Ohio, ending up at Bowdoin College. She also taught English for 25 years at Freeport High School.

65 **Mary E. Staniels**, 80, MA English, of Manchester, N.H., on June 13, 2018. She was an English teacher at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, N.H., for many years.

66 **Rolland E. Fontaine**, 87, MA French, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on April 21, 2018. He worked 10 years teaching in the Vermont school system then taught French for 25 years at Saratoga Springs High School, traveling to France with his students 10 times.

67 **Anne S. Kelley**, 86, MA English, of Cheshire, Conn., on June 26, 2018. She served as chairman of the English Dept. at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Conn., and then as supervisor of English in the Milford, Conn., School System. She retired as the interim assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Milford.

68 Sr. **Mary Monica Socinski**, 85, MA French, of Long Branch, N.J., on June 25, 2018. She entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, N.Y., in 1956 and made her final profession in 1961. She was involved in various areas of education and music ministry in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

72 **Cherie B. Palmer**, 79, MA Spanish, of Latrobe, Pa., on April 5, 2018. She taught Spanish and French to students in grades 6 through 12 in the Latrobe School District from 1968 to 1993.

73 **Philip R. Tracy**, 73, MA French, of Norton, Mass., on April 7, 2016. As a freedom fighter during the Civil Rights Movement, he marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and also served as a Jesuit volunteer in Jamaica. He was a French and Spanish teacher for over 50 years.

74 **Hope I. Gottlieb**, 65, MA French, of Buffalo, N.Y., on February 22, 2018. Speaking seven languages fluently, she was one of the top conference interpreters in her field. She was the first and only American citizen to be hired as a permanent member of the interpreting team at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. She also worked for the World Bank, the UN, UNESCO, OECD, the International Criminal Court, and the European Union. She also worked for the State Dept. at various U.S. embassies around the world.

90 **Roger S. Smith**, 74, MA English, of Flat Rock, N.C., on May 7, 2018. He served in the Army in Vietnam and in Germany, where he worked as a political advisor to the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe. With a law degree, he practiced law in NYC before becoming a teacher, coach, and college counselor.

Classifieds

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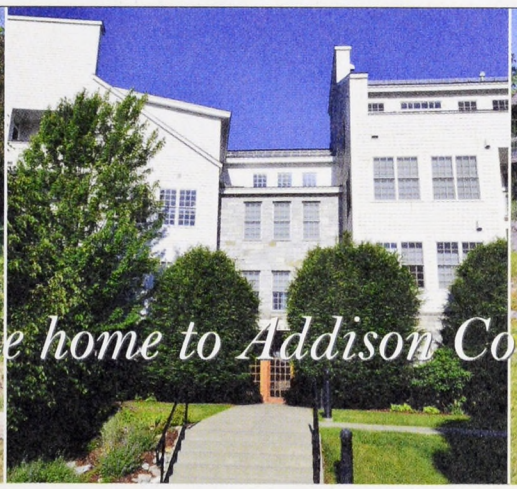

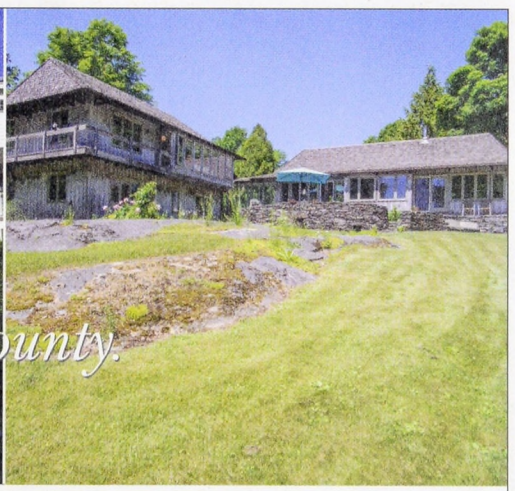

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By Paul Barnwell '04, MA English '13

A Return to Manual Labor

During a late May morning on a farm on the outskirts of my hometown of Concord, New Hampshire, I join the other farmhands in walking down the row of Fraser fir Christmas trees, two years old and barely up to my knees, sprinkling pellets of fertilizer around the outer edge of the lower branches.

Take two steps.

Repeat.

Two steps.

Repeat.

When we reach the end of the row, we fill up our plastic pails with fertilizer and journey back up the gently sloping hill. Upon reaching the top, the farmer, a 40-something, broad-shouldered hockey player—who can fix everything, from backhoes to weed wackers—gives us a reminder. "Make those roots reach for the nutrients," he tells our crew of four, including me, a retired Army veteran, and two local college students.

I embrace the repetitive and meditative work. It's hot in the bright sun, but there's a breeze that cools the sweat just enough to make it bearable. I'm working for wages a fraction of my previous job, but the rewards make up for the loss in pay. The work is a constant reminder that using my hands and body, feeling accomplished after seeing tangible results, is something that many folks of my generation are—or perhaps should be—longing for.

I'm well aware that my choice of part-time employment comes from a position of privilege. I don't have to work 40-plus hours a week spreading fertilizer, pulling weeds, and straining my body day after day. My wife, Rebecca, carries our benefits, and after some international travel, we're living at home with my dad in my childhood home. And yet I've always enjoyed physical work.

My summer jobs during high school and college included working for a moving company, preparing textiles and rugs for shipping, and stacking pallets of beer by night in a refrigerated warehouse.

After graduating from Middlebury in 2004, I worked as a public school teacher in Kentucky, but I didn't stop embracing activity that was grounded in making and doing. During afternoons and evenings, I experimented and toiled in my urban garden, keeping a small flock of hens that our neighbor would sometimes find roaming in the alleyway or hiding underneath his pickup truck. I brewed beer and hunted white-tailed deer on weekends and evenings, learning to do everything from calibrating my compound bow to scouting for tracks and field dressing the carcass.

It all served as a salve for teacher stress, a respite from grading papers, angry parents, and having to make thousands of decisions every day in the classroom. I suffered from bouts of depression, but when I was moving and outside, I activated a different part my brain. The disconcerting fuzz of radio static in my head dissipated with every pulled weed.

Earlier during that May morning at the farm, our crew labors over pruning highbush Jersey blueberries. The morning dew saturates my work boots, and by 9 a.m. I shed my thin outer layer. After we pile the discarded branches at the end of the rows, our boss deftly handles the bucket loader as he maneuvers and mashes the small mountain of tangled branches, scoops them up, and reverses course to dump the limbs in the corner of a field for what will undoubtedly become a bonfire on a cool fall evening.

Before we start fertilizing the infant Christmas trees, I take a moment and think about what a friend and fellow Middlebury grad told me earnestly after I informed him about my farmhand work. "It's going to be good for the soul," he said. So far, he's right.

And I can't help wondering just how much better off many of us would be—physically, mentally, and spiritually—if we valued healthy doses of active work as much as the countless jobs that require sitting still, staring at a screen, and hoping that our emails and mouse clicks have a measurable and positive impact on the world around us.

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Robyn Erman '97, Kris McGuffie '97, and their sons.

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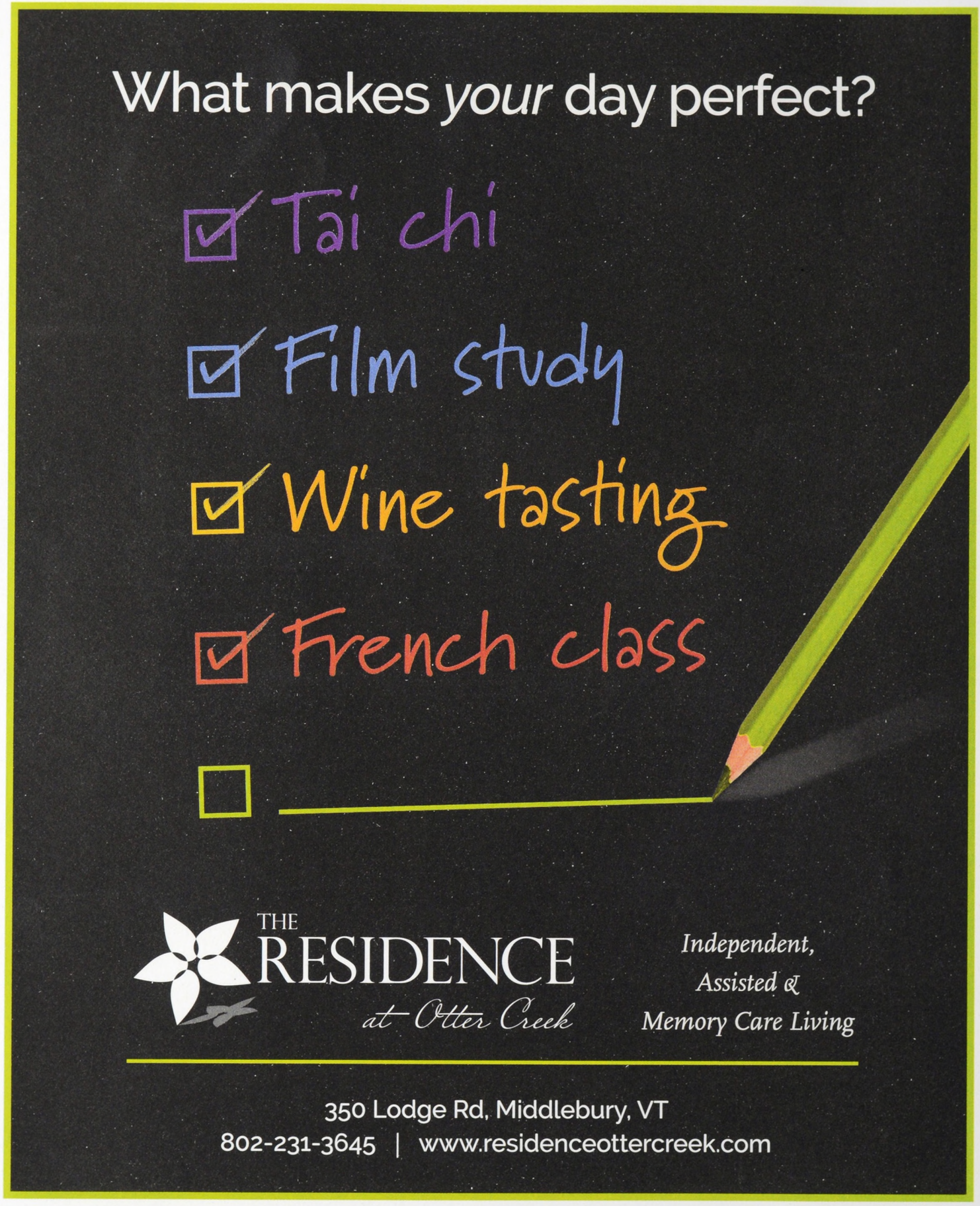
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